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Saddam threatens Israel of retaliation

Iraq facing major big powers conspiracy

BAGHDAD, April 2, (Agencies): President Saddam Hussein said today Iraq had highly advanced chemical weapons and threatened to destroy half of Israel if it struck against Iraq.

In his first major address since allegations Baghdad was trying to smuggle nuclear triggers from the United States, Saddam denied his country was building a nuclear bomb.

He said however Iraq's chemical weapons capability was matched

only by the United States and the Soviet Union and lashed out at the West for "plotting" against Baghdad.

"I swear to God we will let our fire at half of Israel if it tries to wage anything against Iraq," he said in a speech broadcast to the nation.

Israeli warplanes destroyed Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981 and the Israelis were reported to have supplied Iran with military spare parts during the eight-year Gulf war with Iraq.

"Do they think the \$10,500 worth triggers were enough to produce atomic bombs? ... what nonsense? We don't need an atomic bomb, because we have the double chemical (weapon)."

Britain and the United States said on Wednesday they had foiled a plot to smuggle American-made nuclear triggers aboard an Iraqi airliner at London's Heathrow airport.

Since then some Israeli and US politicians have called for action to prevent Iraq building nuclear bombs.

"He who threatens us with an atomic bomb, will be annihilated by the double chemical," Saddam said.

The 52-year-old President, who heads one of the most powerful armies in the Middle East, said Iraq was facing a major conspiracy.

"The big powers seem to have decided to play the game themselves and directly ... and let the one who wants to try his luck, let him try," he added.

The Iraqi President said the sophisticated "double" chemical weapons were acquired by Iraq in the final days of the Gulf war and had not been used against Iran.

Iraq has admitted using chemical weapons against Iran in the Gulf war but strenuously denied reports that it used them against its own dissident Kurdish minority.

The Iraqi President said Israeli, US and British agents had tried to sell enriched uranium to Iraq to try to prove that it was making a nuclear bomb.

"Israeli, American and English intelligence agents used to come to us with bags full of enriched uranium every other day."

"They used to come every day to tell us: Don't you want enriched uranium? To make an atomic bomb? ... We used to say: Leave us alone, keep your evil away from us and take your bags with you ... go away because we do not need an atomic bomb, for we have the sophisticated binary chemical weapons."

"This sophisticated binary chemical weapon is available in Iraq ... so why do we need an atomic bomb?"

Saddam, who has ruled Iraq for more than 20 years, said Iraq did not intend to attack anyone.

He said the United States was partly built by a "bunch of undisciplined gangs" before it became a superpower.

UAE plans bourse to boost economy

ABU DHABI, April 2, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy and Finance has told the government that the creation of an official stock exchange was essential to the national economy, ministry sources said.

The sources said the ministry had sent a report for discussion to the federal cabinet, the first time it has taken such a positive step in backing the much-discussed market.

"Setting up a stock market has become essential to the national economy. It is also an instrument to encourage citizens to invest their funds in their own country," the report said, quoted by the sources.

The UAE has been talking about opening an official exchange to replace the current telephone-traded market since 1985.

Officials have said that the main problem in establishing a UAE exchange is differences in trade laws in the seven emirates that make up the federation.

"The report has not yet been discussed in the cabinet. If it is endorsed, then we will go ahead with the projected market," said one ministry source.

The report said UAE stock-market was feasible and that the country had 67 joint-stock companies with a total capitalisation of around 14 billion dirhams (\$3.8 billion).

Total shares were 5.56 billion of which the government directly owned 653 million worth 4.08 billion dirhams (\$1.1 billion), the report said.

At present, there are 27 companies trading their shares on the telephone market in the UAE, capitalised at 8.26 billion dirhams (\$2.25 billion), and of which the government owns around 40 per cent.

The National Bank of Abu Dhabi (Nbad) set up an unofficial index a year ago to track 22 of these banks and companies.

Daily turnover is active by regional standards at around 200,000 to 300,000 dirhams (\$55,000 to 80,000) a day.

The Nbad index, base 1,000, jumped nearly 40 per cent last year but declined sharply last month to 1,401.16 from 1,421.46 mainly due to declines in Nbad and National Bank of Dubai (Nbd) shares, as investors awaited Nbad results and following NBD dividends.

The UAE Central Bank and local businessmen have repeatedly requested a local exchange, saying it would boost domestic savings and cut stock manipulation by unauthorised brokers.

The Saudi rial interbank deposit market continued quiet.

With European markets only just opening up, operators were still waiting to see which way dollar rates might move.

Bid to cut price hike Fresh fruits arrive

KUWAIT, April 2, (Kuna): The Kuwait Agriculture and Foodstuff Products Company yesterday announced arrival of a consignment of fresh vegetables and fruits by charter plane to feed the local market and reduce the present rise in consumer prices.

The company's managing director Khaled Al Othman told Kuna that other flights had been chartered to bring in additional fruit and vegetable consignments for the purpose.

The executive indicated the import was a fruit of the recent close co-ordination between the company and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Al Othman said the company has made available to the local consumer quantities of fresh vegetables and fruits at its 44 outlets in all parts of Kuwait and at very reasonable prices.



Two recent Soviet Jewish immigrants break matza, or unleavened bread on Sunday as they celebrate their first Passover in Israel. Some 180 new immigrants gathered in a Jerusalem hotel for a mock Passover meal in order to learn of the Jewish holiday that recalls the exodus of ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt. On the table among glasses of wine is a Russian language booklet describing the holiday. (Reuters wirephoto)

MP attacks Shamir plan

Immigration rises

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 2, (Reuters): An Israeli member of parliament accused Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir yesterday of planning to speed up Jewish settlement in occupied Arab lands now that the Labour Party had quit his government.

"They (Shamir's Likud Party) are going to escalate the rhythm for the confirmation of five settlements," Avraham Burg of Labour told Reuters.

About 70,000 Jews live among the 1.75 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Arabs call the settlers a provocation and Washington views them as an obstacle to peace.

Palestinians and Arab states also fear many Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel will join existing settlers in the occupied territories, thwarting Palestinian demands for a separate state.

Officials told Reuters yesterday that Soviet Jewish immigration rose in March over the previous month, despite attempts by Arab militants to curb the flow.

Asked about Burg's charges, Shamir's media adviser Avi Pazner said: "I have no confirmation of that."

"I don't see here any special activity on that."

But he added: "What was agreed upon will be carried out. This government will continue the policy of the former government. This is what a transition government is all about."

Israeli army units took over last night responsibility of guarding Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories of Gaza Strip and West Bank, travellers from occupied Palestine said in Amman yesterday.

Meanwhile, Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel rose in March over the previous month, despite Arab militants' attempts to reduce the flow, Israeli officials told Reuters yesterday.

Citing Arab threats to strike at immigrant flights Israeli military censors last month imposed a black-out on details of arrivals but the New York Times reported last week that immigration was running at 1,500 per week.

In New York, more than 100,000 people rallied outside the United Nations yesterday on behalf of Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, and leaders called for direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv.



Listening to speeches

A woman holds a Soviet flag as she listens to speeches during a pro-Soviet demonstration in a Lithuanian city on Saturday. The sign at left refers to the Lithuanian president's musical talent. Lithuanian officials have hinted a compromise during a war of words with the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebels may unite with reds

Manila politicians criticised for blocking reform

MANILA, April 2, (Reuters): Right-wing army rebels declared on yesterday they were willing to join forces with communist guerrillas to topple President Corazon Aquino's US-backed government but urged left-wing insurgents to renounce communism.

The rebel soldiers said leftist guerrillas should be convinced after waging an insurgency for 21 years "of the falsity of Marxism-Leninism and the communist leadership as the vanguard of the struggle for national liberation."

The statement, issued by the Young Officers' Union (You), followed an earlier call by the communist New People's Army (NPA) for soldiers to defect to the NPA and help leftist forces oust Aquino.

It marked the first time that both right and left-wing armed groups in the country had expressed the need for unity to overthrow the central government in Manila, traditionally backed by the United States.

Like their NPA counterparts, the rebel soldiers denounced the intervention of "US imperialism" in the Philippines, a reference to US military bases in the country.

You, composed of idealistic, reform-minded junior officers, was among military factions that took part in last December's sixth and most serious Army coup attempt against Aquino.

The Young Officers' Union (You) ... calls upon all armed groups to unite under the banner of the all Filipino patriotic and democratic movement to finally ... attain national liberation," said the statement circulated in a Manila military camp.

It said unity among all revolutionaries was necessary to oust Aquino and build a new nationalist government. "We wait for the time when the Communist Party ... will renounce its dogmatic adherence to communism," the army rebels said.

The statement called on communist guerrillas to stop attacking ordinary Filipino soldiers, saying the soldiers themselves wanted to change the status quo.

Meanwhile, Roman Catholic oishops today criticised ruling party politicians for rejecting President Corazon Aquino's nominee for secretary of the Agrarian Reform Department, saying the party is an obstacle to genuine land reform.

Aquino said she still supports the appointment of lawyer Florencio Abad to the post. Abad resigned as member of the House of Representatives to join the Aquino cabinet.

The Japanese embassy has taken additional security measures to protect its citizens in the Philippines amid threats of attack by communist rebels, a Japanese spokesman said today.

Ramadan timings

Imrak: 4.05 am
Iftar: 6.08 pm

NEWSWATCH

Boehme resigns: East German Social Democratic Party (SPD) leader Ibrahim Boehme resigned on Monday amid a row over his alleged role as a security police informer.

Party spokesman Karl-August Kamilli told a news conference Boehme was giving up all his party posts. Boehme, who denies links with the former Stasi security police, stepped aside a week ago to clear his name. After he had viewed his police files last Friday he said he would resume the party leadership on Monday. (Reuters)

Airplane runs over engineer: A British Airways engineer died after he was run over by an aircraft at London's Heathrow airport, police said Monday.

The Brynnon Airways Dash-7 aircraft was being pushed back by a tractor from a boarding stairway on Sunday night for its flight to western England when one of the wheels ran over Joseph Felix, 37, police said.

"The plane was not under its own power," said Brynnon Airways managing director Malcolm Naylor. "It was being pushed back by the British Airways handling staff so it could move into a position to taxi off." (AP)

Jerusalem turns white: April snow fell on occupied Jerusalem on Monday for the third time in 120 years, Israeli weather officials said.

The weathermen said previous falls were recorded in April 1870 and in 1949. The centimetre that fell in an hour on Monday quickly melted. (Reuters)

Prison riots: More than 130 inmates remained on the loose inside riot-devastated Strangeways prison Monday as staff attempted to regain control of the Victorian building, the home office said.

Authorities said 47 people were injured. British news reports spoke of an unconfirmed toll of three to 12 dead.

Ivor Serle, chapter chairman at the jail of the Prison Officers' Association, said guards had regained control of half the auster, redbrick prison during the night. (AP) (See Page 2)

Extremists blamed: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said weekend riots in the heart of London were the work of extremists and showed no sign of bending to popular demands to dump that hated "poll tax."

Thatcher ordered an official inquiry after more than 400 people were injured on Saturday in the most violent protest yet against the new tax which has sent her popularity plummeting.

The prime minister said on Sunday she was horrified by the violence. (Reuters) (See Page 2)



Call for polls

Members of opposition shout anti-government slogans with a symbolic ballot box to demand immediate elections to the Assembly of Punjab state. More than 50 people took part in the protest which later submitted a memorandum to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman. (Reuters wirephoto)

Paper launched: The first national newspaper in Britain for young Asians will go on sale this Friday, it was reported.

"The Profile," based in London, is aiming for an initial circulation of 15,000 and has promised to focus on issues not covered by any other national publication.

It has already lined up an exclusive interview with Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The paper's editor 20-year-old Abdul Mostaqim said "The Profile will become essential reading for anyone interested in the Asian community in Britain." (Kuna)

Coffee please: Coffee and kisses—that's what most West German women want to wake up to on Sunday mornings, but not sex, according to a new survey.

The poll of how 25-40 year old women most wanted to be woken on their Sunday day off, found that 95 per cent wanted romantic "little morning kisses." Some 81 per cent liked the idea of being served coffee and crispy rolls.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Mr. Menino Santana Fernandes has won the Second Full House prize. He will receive KD 60. Game No. 76 continues for the Third Full House prize.

Gunmen kill 4 in Karachi

KARACHI, April 2, (Reuters): Gunmen sprayed bullets from a car in a Karachi street early today, killing four people and wounding six, police said.

The men fled after the shooting in the centre of Pakistan's biggest city which is frequently hit by ethnic riots. More than 1,000 people have died since 1986 in ethnic unrest in southern Sindh province of which Karachi is the capital.

Hindu leader urges fist on Kashmir, Army called out

JAMMU, India, April 2, (Agencies): The leader of a Hindu party whose support is crucial to India's minority government called yesterday for a crackdown on separatist protest in Kashmir.

Lal Kishan Advani, president of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), told a news conference that only tougher action against the separatists would yield results.

But Advani said a war with any country, a reference to Pakistan, was no solution to the Muslim campaign for Kashmir's independence or secession.

Advani, whose party's votes help to keep Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's government in power, also urged authorities in Jammu and Kashmir state to give priority to rehabilitating Hindu refugees.

Advani said 24,000 Hindu families had fled the separatist revolt, centred in the summer capital Srinagar, but he said the authorities had sheltered only 1,300 of them at Jammu.

Police sources said the arrival of the refugees sparked clashes between Hindus and Muslims in Jammu last week.

A slain militant leader in the curfew-bound Srinagar today after Muslim separatists announced they would hold a rally at the site.

The rally was to be held at a "martyrs' graveyard" in memory of Ashfaq Masid Wani, one of four area commanders of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), who was killed in a gun fight with troops in the city on Friday.

Officials announced there would be no curfew break today. Militants opposed to Indian rule have been using the early-morning curfew breaks to attack patrolling troops.

A JKLF spokesman said the rally would be held the moment curfew was lifted.

Nineteen militants were killed in clashes with security forces and 79 arrested in Indian-ruled Kashmir over the past four days, state-run radio said.

More than 240 people have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir since a secessionist campaign burst into major violence in mid-January. Government radio said troops killed four militants yesterday in the town of Anantnag, where fierce street battles were fought over the weekend.



Strangeways prison inmates shown on rooftops during rioting.

(Reuter wirephoto)



A victim of rioting at Strangeways prison is taken away by medics. (Reuter wirephoto)

Lifestyle in Kovalam

Temple dancers in beach hotel

KOVALAM, India, April 2. (Reuter): As the sun sets over the Arabian Sea, Hindu temple dancers with garishly painted faces, wearing huge skirts and head-dresses, perform ancient tales of India on a hotel rooftop before sunbathing tourists.

The dancers are presenting in pantomime one of the 100,000 episodes of the Mahabharata, India's great epic of love and war, men and gods.

Tourism is giving a fillip to the Kathakali dance troupe, one of many such groups that are finding it hard to survive these days on temple work alone.

Tourism also is working subtle changes in traditional lifestyles in Kovalam, long a favourite of Western Bohemians taking a break from ashrams and gurus on the old hippie enlightenment trail through India.

Tucked away in the southern tip of India in the communist-ruled state of Kerala, Kovalam has lovely beach coves, coconut tree jungles, cheap seafood restaurants and cosy hotels.

Hippies still hang out at the main beach. But the audience watching the Kathakali mime dancers under the stars looks more like the kind of free-spirited yuppie adventure travellers that Neptune hotel owner B.K. Das is looking for.

"The hippies are vanishing. Efforts are on to promote upmarket tourism," Das said in an interview.

But Kalamandalam Sivarajan, director of the Kathakali dance troupe, still has to walk the beach by day, handing out leaflets to sunbathing tourists.

"I am contacting 30 or 40 temples all the time, but so are dozens of other troupes," said Sivarajan, who studied for eight years to learn the 500 gestures of Kathakali. "There are only a few major festivals a year. Money is sometimes a problem."

A Kathakali performance is supposed to last all night. But Sivarajan, whose troupe toured West Germany last year, gives two-hour abridged versions for foreign audiences.

Local people at first objected to having sacred dances performed in a setting where most women sunbathe and are topless and marijuana smoke often wafts on the sea breeze.

"But opposition is reducing because Kathakali has become famous after performing before tourists," said Venu Gopal, a Kerala tourism official.

Kovalam remains primarily a fishing community.

Every morning dozens of men heave on ropes pulling in big mango wood fishing canoes, trailing nets bulging with kingfish and tuna, guiding the boats through rocks, swimmers and sunbathers to a clear spot of beach.

During the November to February tourist season, Manoharan paddles tourists around the coves in a boat made of four rubber tree logs tied together and using a piece of bamboo for an oar.

"Tourists are all the time smiling, having fun, spending money," Manoharan said. "Sure it makes us happy, too." He makes twice as much money on tourists as he does diving off rocks for oysters in the off-season, he said.

Kerala has long been known for its Ayurvedic medicine, the homeopathic science practised in India for more than 2,000 years, and Kovalam has plenty of herbal massage clinics.

"You will be taking the massage of the gods," Ayurvedic doctor Chandhira Babu tells a visitor in his beachside clinic.

Babu gives up to 20 herbal oil massages a day to sun-fried Western tourists. He has no Indian clientele.

"Indian people already do this in their homes," he said, kneading hot oil into a visitor's back. "Why should they pay money to me?"

Babu returns each evening to his village clinic outside Kovalam to dispense herbal medicines to his local patients.

Kovalam is off the beaten tourist path. Of the one million foreigners who visited India in 1988, only 52,000 came to Kerala state and about half of those came to the beach resort, state officials said.

The Marxist Democratic Front government aims to double that number in the next five years by trying what communist governments elsewhere are doing—free enterprise.

"It is the policy to give all encouragement and assistance to the private sector to hasten the pace of tourism and industrialisation," Minister of Tourism and Communist Party leader P.S. Sreenivasan said in an interview.

The government is discussing projects in Kovalam with several foreign and Indian hoteliers, he said.

Nepal town defies police

KATHMANDU, April 2. (Reuter): The Royal Palace in Kathmandu announced yesterday that King Birendra has dismissed nine government ministers on the advice of Prime Minister Man Singh Shrestha.

Politicians said the nine had opposed Shrestha's crackdown on the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy's (MRD) six-week campaign of demonstrations and strikes against Nepal's partyless system of elected councils or panchayats.

The government says the panchayat system is democratic and that the MRD has been hijacked by communist extremists.

Those dismissed included Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who offered his resignation last week.

The communiqué from the King, who is above the constitution, did not mention that Upadhyaya had offered to quit. It said Water Resources Minister Hari Bahadur Bista, one of 28 national assembly members nominated by the King.

"I consider this reshuffle an insult to the panchayat system and its workers," said Keshar Bahadur Bista, one of 40 members of the 140-strong Rashtriya Panchayat (national assembly) who have opposed the crackdown.

In the central Nepal town Lalitpur yesterday, protesters barricaded outside police to hold a rally of 10,000 people, witnesses said.

The town, in a valley just outside the capital Kathmandu, has defied a crackdown on political protest in the Himalayan kingdom.

Residents built barricades of logs and garbage to keep police out of Lalitpur's Nag Bahal Square while banned political parties held a 45-minute rally.

Witnesses said police were deployed in truckloads in other parts of the town — famed for its Buddhist temples — but could not break down the barriers in time to halt the rally.

Residents battled police most of Friday and Saturday. The government has confirmed two people died there on Friday in clashes with police. Government sources said four had died.

Residents said they stayed awake to Saturday night while men from each home stood guard with axes and farm tools to stop police making arrests.

By Sunday police said Lalitpur was calm but that they were keeping a heavy presence.

At least 12 people died in clashes in the first few days of the MRD campaign and hundreds have been arrested.

UK prison riots

Police mass outside jail; deaths reported

MANCHESTER, England, April 2. (Reuter): Rioting convicts roamed the scorched shell of one of Britain's oldest prisons today with police massing outside and jail warders reporting seeing a number of corpses within the walls.

A Home Office spokesman said warders at Manchester's overcrowded Strangeways prison, which was seized and set ablaze by 1,000 of its 1,600 inmates yesterday, were trying to persuade ringleaders to negotiate.

"Some of our members have said some prisoners have lost their lives," said David Evans, general secretary of the Prison Officers' Association. "I do not know how many but there have been people lying prostrate... for hours on end."

At least 50 people, including several guards, were injured. Ivor Serie of the Prison Officers' Association said the inside of the prison was "like a bomb site... the prison is wrecked inside and will have to be virtually rebuilt."

Police ruled out a night attempt to retake control of the prison but reporters at the scene said hundreds of reinforcements were assembling around the perimeter wall.

The riot was started by prisoners attending a morning service in the prison chapel yesterday. They grabbed keys and released colleagues.

The Reverend Noel Proctor told reporters one inmate used a microphone to call on fellow prisoners to take over the jail.

He started shouting at some of the lads and they started shouting back. He was shouting obscenities and things like "this is our opportunity," Proctor said.

Running amok and attacking guards the prisoners set fires. One fire in the gymnasium blazed out of control for several hours before firefighters, shielded by riot police, put it out.

Before dawn today most of the 100 inmates who had pelted police and firefighters with heavy roof tiles and retreated inside the jail. A helicopter hovered overhead, a searchlight aimed at the convicts. Many inmates were wearing hoods or masks.

Yesterday a convict, yelling through a loud hailer, gave vent to feelings in the prison which was designed for only 1,000 prisoners.

"Stop the brutality," he cried from the roof. "We are not taking it any more... we are not animals, we are human beings."

Prison officers' Association official George Elliot said it appeared that all 110 guards on duty had been accounted for.

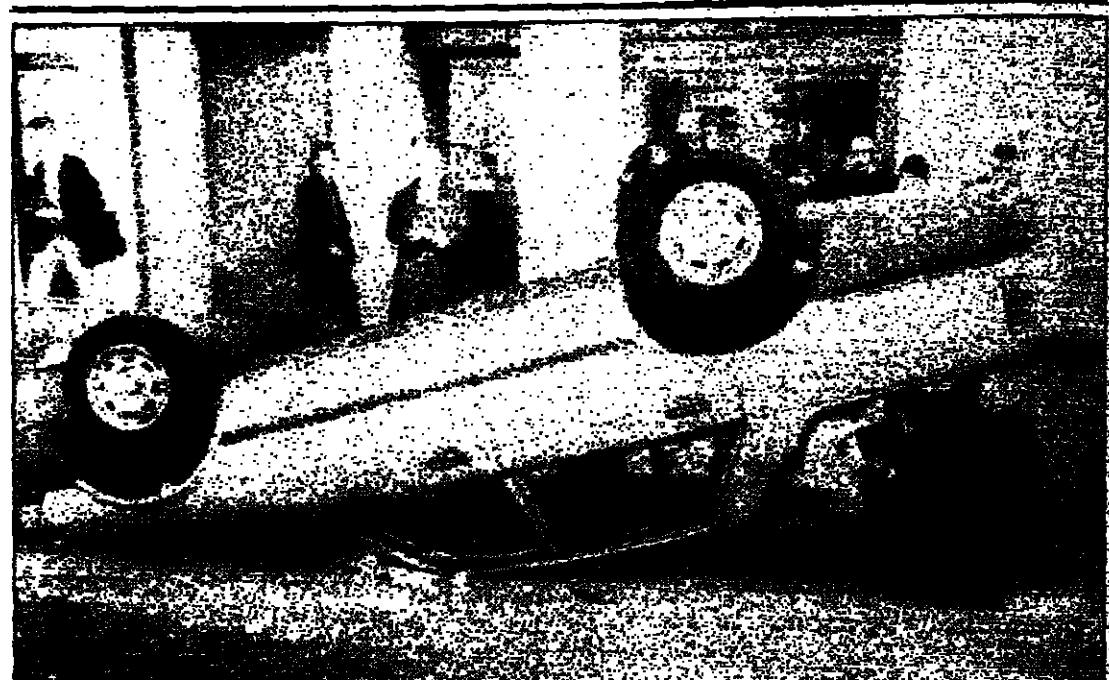
Only last week prison governor Brendan O'Friel said progress was being made in tackling poor conditions. "We are now proud to be the fastest improving prison establishment in the country," he said.

"Even without deaths, the riot is already the worst prison disturbance this century. Strangeways is a ghastly place and conditions there are very difficult for the inmates and the staff," said lawmaker Barry Sheerman, Home Affairs spokesman for the opposition Labour Party.

Scotland Yard also said three men and a woman would be in court for various offenses after

Headed that prison authorities were not in control of any part of the 122-year-old prison, which is in the northern city of Manchester and has a reputation for violence and bad conditions.

Warders and some of the hundreds of prisoners who surrendered told police that as many as 12 convicted sex offenders may have been murdered when rioters broke into a segregated block but these reports were not confirmed.



A visitor to the scene of Saturday's violent demonstrations in central London takes home movies (right) or overturned and burned out car. Damage is expected to reach into millions of dollars following the several hours of fighting over an unpopular new tax. (Reuter wirephoto)

Court hearings begin

Debate on poll tax continues

LONDON, April 2. (Agencies): Court hearings began today for those arrested in the weekend anti-tax riot, while debate continues over the new tax that sparked the unrest.

Scotland Yard started an inquiry into Saturday's six-hour street battle which caused hundreds of thousands of pounds (dollars) of damage and injured 331 police officers, 58 of whom were treated in hospitals. Eighty-six other people were hurt.

Police said 68 of 341 persons arrested Saturday in clashes in Whitehall and around Trafalgar Square were being brought to five magistrate's courts today.

The violence broke out in Whitehall, the seat of government, following a peaceful demonstration in the square by some 40,000 people. Police were attacked, automobiles burned and overturned, shop windows smashed and some shops looted.

Police said all the 68 coming to court had been kept in custody after being charged with public order offenses, burglary, theft and assault. They said 273 others arrested had been given police bail.

Scotland Yard also said three men and a woman would be in court for various offenses after

being arrested yesterday when Home Secretary David Waddington visited the riot area. He was met with shouts of abuse and his car was damaged.

The Yard said anarchists in a group called Class War were prominent in starting trouble. Class War issued a statement saying it "totally supported attacks on the police and destroying symbols of wealth."

The organisers of the demonstration, the anti-Britain and anti-tax federation, blamed "small groups of troublemakers but also accused police of losing control."

Roy Ramm, the Yard chief detective heading the inquiry, appealed to the media and public to provide film and photographs of the riot to help police identify troublemakers.

On Sunday, the day the new tax officially took effect, opponents of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she should take heed.

"If the prime minister continues not to listen on the poll tax, she will create a climate of civic disaffection which those of violence will continue to exploit for their own evil ends," said Paddy Ashdown, leader of the centrist Liberal Democrats.

The demonstrators were protesting against a new tax called the community charge, or poll tax, which imposes a charge on every adult instead of on property owners to finance local government services like roads, police, education and garbage collection.

Many residents are having to pay up to one-third more while millions are having to pay a local tax for the first time.

Demonstrations against the tax have been taking place throughout Britain and voters' members of the ruling Conservative Party believe the tax will force them out of power when the next general election is held sometime within the next two years.

Mrs Thatcher told reporters of her "absolute horror" at Saturday's violence.

"People have a right to demonstrate peacefully. It was taken over by some extreme groups who used violence with no consideration for others or their property," she said near her country residence in Chequers.

Labour Party chief Neil Kinnock, whose party is 28 points ahead of Mrs Thatcher's Conservatives in the latest polls, said those who caused the violence must be "treated as criminals and punished."

Aussie hackers arrested

Airline smoking ban urged

MELBOURNE, April 2. (AP): Australian police, tipped off by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, have charged three Australian youths with tampering with university computer systems in the United States.

The three suspects, ranging in age from 18 to 21, were charged in Melbourne court, police said today. They said it was the biggest computer-hacking operation they had ever uncovered.

The three were charged with damaging data in government computers, which carries a maximum jail sentence of 10 years, according to the Australian Associated Press. AAP said there is no provision for a fine.

The arrests followed a six-month investigation conducted jointly by Australian federal police, the FBI and police in the State of Victoria.

The suspects were arrested following raids to put their com-

puters out of action, to prevent the destruction of software to be used as evidence, police said in a statement.

Federal police said the three — using the codenames Phoenix, Electron and Nom — penetrated the computer systems of universities and laboratories in Australia. AAP reported, with more illegal entry into US computer

systems tracked last year. A federal police spokesman said their investigation began in earnest only six months ago after new legislation under the Commonwealth Crimes Act was introduced last July covering offences on illegal computer use.

Previously, police powers to investigate hacking had been restricted.

US to help Pakistani anti-drug plan

ISLAMABAD, April 2. (Reuter): The United States is hoping to play a greater role in helping Pakistan to combat drug trafficking, a senior US official said today.

Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotic Matters Melvyn Levitsky told a news conference here that the Pakistani government was "very strong" against the drug problem.

"The present government has a strong will and determination to stem the drug trade," he said.

Levitsky held talks with Pakistani officials on Washington's efforts to curb drug production, traf-

ficking and consumption.

Referring to US aid in helping Pakistan to reduce poppy crops, he said: "We are planning in the next couple of years to increase that programme."

Pakistan is a major source of heroin smuggled to Western countries after being processed in tribal areas in the north-west frontier province or in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has vowed to catch the drug trade's "big fish" who she accuses of using vast resources to destabilise her government.



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Fishermen missing in Bay of Bengal

Storms kill 166 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, April 2. (AP): Tropical summer storms battering Bangladesh for the past nine days have killed 166 people and injured at least 1,600 others in house collapses and accidents at sea, police and newspaper reports said today.

A Bengali language daily, Ittefaq, said the latest deaths occurred yesterday when 13 people were killed and at least 200 injured in a storm that ripped through the coastal districts in the south and the central province of Manikganj.

At least five people were killed

and 200 injured in house collapses on the island of Uritchar off the southeastern coast, the newspaper said. Another four people were killed in the coastal district of Noakhali and four others died in Manikganj, Ittefaq said.

At least 100 fishermen drowned last Thursday in a sudden storm in the Bay of Bengal last Thursday, police officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The fishermen were listed as missing, but the officials, contacted by telephone, said today there was no hope of finding survivors.

Thursdays storm also killed 15 people in the Noakhali district, 120 kms (75 miles) south-east of Dhaka. Many of the bodies were found buried under the debris of collapsed mud-and-straw huts. At least 500 people were injured.

At least 38 people died in storms that struck the low-lying nation earlier in the week.

Bangladesh is perennially buffeted by natural disasters. Summer floods, cyclones and storms kill hundreds of people every year.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

BEVERLY HILLS, California: A Cable Television movie about 1920s singer Josephine Baker starring Diana Ross will be shown on the Turner Television Network next year.

Miss Ross and television mogul Ted Turner announced plans for the programme on Tuesday.

"It's always been my dream to play Josephine Baker," Miss Ross said.

"I have to say that I didn't know much about Josephine Baker before," Turner said. "But I know a lot about Diana Ross, and the fact that she wants to make it makes me believe it's a winner."

Rival Cable Network Home Box Office announced its own plans for a biography earlier this month, starring Lynn Whitfield.

The HBO production begins filming in Budapest next month and is to be broadcast before the end of 1990.

Miss Baker's career spanned several decades, but she was best known as an exotic chanteuse in Paris during the 1920s. (AP)

MACON, Georgia: New Kids on the Block, the pop group known for its clean image and anti-drug stand, has gotten some students in trouble with the Gilead Christian Academy.

Officials of the independent Baptist School found out that some of their students attended a March 4 concert by the group, violating a school policy that makes attendance at rock concerts — along with smoking, drugs and alcohol — grounds for expulsion.

Keth Scott, Gilead dean of students, said the students will not be asked to withdraw. But he sent a letter to parents reminding them of school policies on the admissions applications they signed. He added that rock music is in direct opposition to the word of God. This stand we take without apology.

Some parents complained that it was their right to decide what concerns their children attended. "And we have the choice to admit the student or not," Scott said.

The school has 400 students in kindergarten through the 12th grade. (AP)

CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee: Ted Turner credits his Cable News Network with awakening him to world problems.

"Until then, I was more interested in myself and my family," Turner told students at the McCallie School, which he attended from 1951 to 1956.

After starting his 24-hour television news station about 10 years ago, Turner told the students, he determined that he had better keep up more with the world's activities.

"And I came to the conclusion after studying it on my own that we had made a terrible mistake getting involved in the arms race."

Of even greater concern, Turner said, are world overpopulation and threats to the environment from business and industry.

"I now look on development as bad," he said. "When I see a new building going up, it makes me feel bad." (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Dar Robinson was one of the greatest stunt men of all time, actor Danny Glover told a jury in a lawsuit stemming from Robinson's death when a stunt went wrong in the Arizona desert.

Glover, who saw Robinson work his stunt magic in the film *Lethal Weapon*, was called as a witness on Wednesday by attorney Jerry Kroll, who represents Robinson's family in a multimillion-dollar suit against Dino de Laurentiis Entertainment Group and Productions Ltd.

Kroll maintains that Robinson died because an ambulance was unavailable at the remote desert location where he had a motorcycle accident while filming *Million Dollar Mystery* in 1986.

Deg and Productions Ltd maintain there was no ambulance on the set because Robinson felt it was "bad luck" and an insult to his stunt abilities to have one around.

But Glover, who referred to Robinson as "one of the greatest stunt men ever," testified that an ambulance and fire engines were present when Robinson executed a dangerous stunt on the set of *Lethal Weapon* earlier in 1986. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia orchestra leader Riccardo Muti said Friday he had been thinking about resigning for a year before he dropped the bombshell on shocked orchestra members.

Muti met with the media a day after he announced to the world-renowned orchestra that he would step down after more than a decade at the helm on Aug 31, 1992, at the conclusion of the music season.

Looking tired and pale, Muti, 48, said he was leaving because he needed more time to study, enjoy life and travel as a tourist rather than a worker.

"Free time sounds to me so strange because I don't know what it means," said Muti, who lived with his wife and three children in Ravenna, Italy. "I've been practically everywhere in the world and seen very little of the world. I am a man of culture."

The diminutive conductor said he would return to Philadelphia once a year to lead the orchestra at the Academy of Music and to continue recording projects.

Death

TV denial

CAIRO, April 2 (UPI): A mother of two self-immolated herself yesterday after her husband refused to allow her to watch her favourite soap opera on television, the government-supervised Cairo daily Al-Akhar reported in early today's editions.

Al-Akhar said the husband asked his wife to clean the house instead of watching the Arabic soap opera. This prompted her to rush to the bathroom, soak her clothes in kerosene and set herself on fire, it said.

The daily said she died on her way to the hospital.

BRIDGEPORT, Connecticut: Two children found out that when People's Bank says, "if you think it's important, we do, too," it means it — even when it comes to lollipops.

Jessica, 5, and Shannon Fisher, 3, of Simsbury decided to take the bank up on its advertising slogan after telling stopped handing out free lollipops in January. The bank eliminated the \$12,000 spent on the lollipops each year as part of a bankwide cost reduction.

The sisters, with the help of their father, Alan, wrote a letter March 7, telling bank president David Carson the lollipops were important from their perspective.

Carson asked employees "to do something about this," said spokeswoman Jane Sharpe.

Last week, bank officials found \$5,000 in various department budgets, enough to bring the treats back to People's 74 branches in Connecticut, beginning next Tuesday. (AP)

PALM SPRINGS, California: He does not wear a badge, but Palm Springs Mayor Sonny Bono figures he has enough moral authority to chase down speeding motorists.

Straddling his black motorcycle last weekend, Bono spotted a motorcyclist rocket through an intersection of Palm Canyon Drive, the main thoroughfare in the desert resort 100 miles east of Los Angeles.

"I chased him down," Bono said Tuesday. "He said something about not being able to read my shirt, and I told him, 'You'd better learn to read real fast unless you want to spend the night in jail.'"

That is when the young rider noticed "Mayor Sonny Bono" printed on Bono's T-shirt. The mayor, who became famous singing I Got You Babe with former wife Cher, got his man. (AP)

NEW YORK: Dorothy Rodgers, the widow of Richard Rodgers, welcomed the renaming of a Broadway Theatre for the composer of such musicals as *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*.

"It's such a great day for Dick," she said on Tuesday at the renaming of the 46th Street Theatre.

The Richard Rodgers Theatre built in 1924, has been home to some of Broadway's biggest musical hits, including *Gypsy* and *Dolls*, *Damn Yankees* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

The theatre now contains a permanent exhibit of Rodgers' sheet music, theatre posters and photographs. (AP)

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NY cabbie an image of the past

New breed knowing Bombay, Budapest better than Broadway take over



J. Singh (left) and P. Singh, both from India and now working in New York as cab drivers, display their hacks licences. The current breed of New York cab drivers are more likely to know Bombay or Budapest better than Bowery or Broadway. (Rauter wirephoto)

NEW YORK, April 2 (Reuters): "Where you going bud? Waddaya you wanna go there for? Ain't taxes high? Ain't this weather something, boy, this city is sure going to the dogs."

You remember him. The New York cab driver. Hailing from the Bronx or Brooklyn, and probably born with a cigar in his mouth, he had opinions on everything.

Well, you can pretty well forget him. The chances are the current breed of New York cab drivers know Bombay and Budapest much better than the Bowery or Broadway.

And it's pretty safe to bet you know how to get there better than they do. New York cabbies — the folks you love to hate — are getting a bad press these days as newspapers recount the tale of Vehbi Gunduz, who amassed 88 summonses for doing such things as throwing passengers' luggage out the window and pushing and shoving inspectors.

Gunduz retired from driving rather than face a hearing that would have taken away his licence. But go down to the Dover taxi garage in Greenwich Village and you get a different story — a tale of people from every corner of the globe trying to make an honest living the hard way — driving in one of the world's most demanding cities.

"You can tell how long a man's been driving a cab by the size of his butt," Haitian driver Raoul Danton said one recent afternoon. "Yeah, well, if that's true," another ripostes, "you look like you've been driving for 100 years."

As the drivers wait in the big, dark garage, they fidget, play pinball or video games and talk excitedly in a dozen languages. The drivers at Dover, as at most garages in the city now, come from every continent. Some wear turbans or keffiyehs. One man wears a long bouabou gown from the Ivory Coast.

The dispatcher's heavy glass window, an Arab driver argues with the man who collects taxi leasing fees. "I got beat out of a fare last night," a young Canadian says, wolfing Chinese food from a plastic container.

"She gave me the 'back in five minutes' story. I waited, then I went to the door. A guy answered. 'What cab?' he said."

"Twenty-five per cent of our drivers are from the fertile crescent — Morocco to Pakistan," says Jacob Brooke, director of personnel at Dover. "Another 25 per cent come from the Caribbean, mostly Haiti. And the rest, you name it, we've got it — Cuba, Estonia, Latvia. It's like the UN here. I'm the secretary-general."

Brooke is a Briton who came to the United States via Rhodesia — now Zimbabwe — to try his luck on Broadway. While acting, he supported himself by driving a cab, like so many other aspiring actors. When roles became scarce, he joined Dover's management.

"Everything in this business changed in 1979, when leasing came in," he said. "Before that, under the commission setup, a man could raise a big family, buy a house. No more. It's fairly brutal now."

Under the leasing system, a driver rents a cab for a 12-hour shift for something between \$70 and \$100. After paying the "rent," anything he makes, he keeps.

A good cabbie can gross roughly \$200 a shift. Subtract the leasing fee, fuel and union dues and he makes about \$100 a day. Under the old commission arrangement, a driver was on a salary, with benefits, and kept 48 per cent of his gross pay, plus tips. The company took the remainder, but most drivers felt it was a better deal.

As a result, cab driving now appeals to people with limited options — new arrivals from all corners of the globe, actors artists, out-of-work computer analysts.

Gone forever is the middle-aged, street-smart, cigar-chomping cabbie who knew where you were going before you told him — "don't tell me, Brooklyn. Right?"

Relief workers, meanwhile, said the real tragedy of the fire has only now become apparent. Many of the Honduran immigrants were sending money back home, and those families will now have to make up for the loss of their primary breadwinners, said Ken Curtin, director of Disaster Services for the Red Cross of Greater New York.

"We're trying to deal with the special needs of people not only in the Bronx, but also those supporting families in Honduras," he said.

Particularly upsetting, he said, were the cases of children who had been temporarily placed with friends or relatives in Honduras while one or both parents earned enough money to bring them to New York.

Bodies of fire victims arrive in Honduras
US slams illegal clubs

NEW YORK, April 2 (UPI): Police slammed shut 23 more illegal social clubs early yesterday, hoping to prevent a repeat of the blaze that asphyxiated 87 young Latin American parties last week at a Bronx social club.

The crackdown came as the bodies of 48 of the victims arrived in Honduras, the impoverished Central American country many had left in search of a better life in the United States. Other victims' bodies have been flown to Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic.

In Honduras, hundreds of relatives watched tearfully at the "Ramon Villeda Morales" airport in San Pedro Sula as the bodies of their loved ones were lowered from the chartered plane that carried them home.

Honduran President Rafael Callejas travelled to the northern city of San Pedro Sula to pay his respects and give his condolences to the families of the victims who were among 87 people of Latin American origin killed early last Sunday at the Happy Land

Social Club in the Bronx. Representatives of the Catholic Church carried out funeral rites at the airport, and funeral services were held across the north of the country — in Tela, El Progreso, La Ceiba, Potrerillos, Trujillo, Puerto Cortes and San Pedro Sula.

In New York, a special police task force has issued vacate orders to a total of 346 illicit clubs since a sweep by the city began last Sunday, said officer Anthony Mazzola, a police spokesman.

Happy Land itself was issued a vacate order last fall for numerous fire code violations, but managed to stay open by falling through the cracks of regulatory red tape.

The Cuban immigrant accused of torching the club in a fit of jealous rage was indicted Friday on 174 counts of murder by a Bronx grand jury.

Julio Gonzalez, accused of the worst mass killings in continental US history, was charged with 87 counts of second-degree murder for showing "depraved indifference to human life" and 87 counts of felony murder for arson.

The indictment also charged Gonzalez with two counts of arson, one count of attempted murder and one count of assault.

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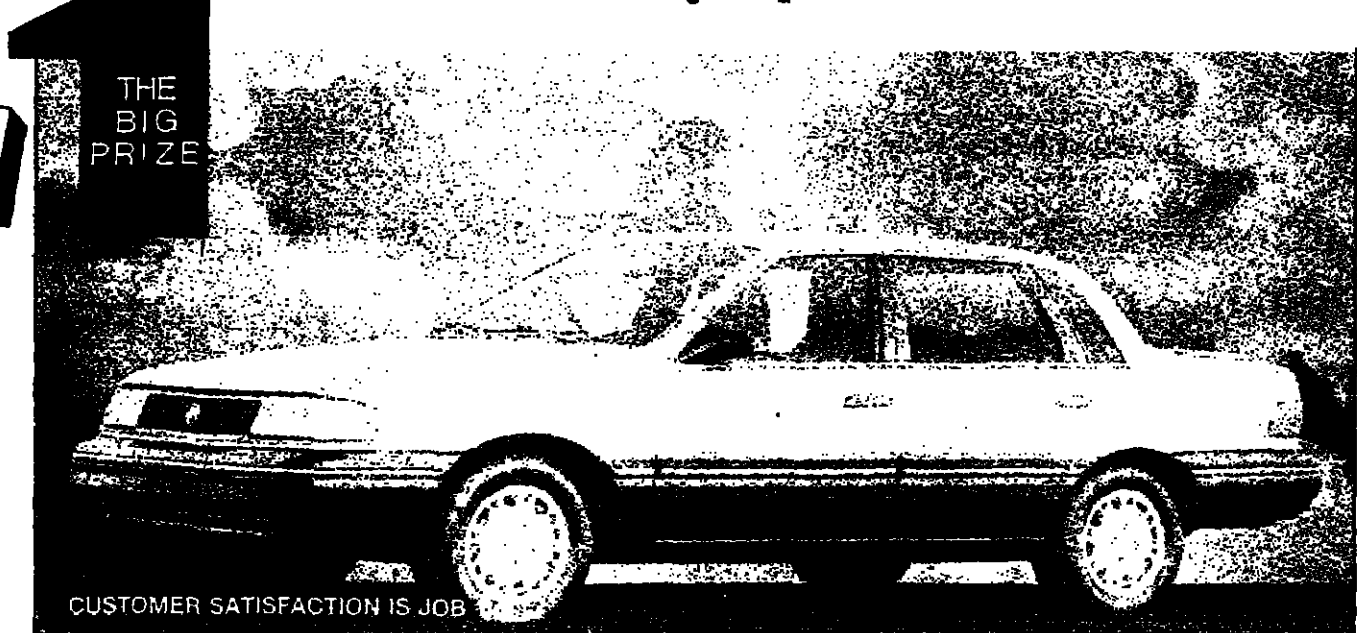
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- * Bazza Est. for Luxuries

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Protest vigil

On the outskirts of San Quentin prison, weary protester Stephen Souza conducts a 24-hour vigil on Sunday to protest the scheduled execution of Robert Alton Harris. Harris has been granted a stay of execution, but the could still die at 3am on April 3 if the US Supreme Court overturns the stay before the time. (Reuters wirephoto)



Le Pen hails call for tougher immigration laws

Giscard proposes a national referendum on the issue at the party congress in Nice

NICE, France, April 2. (AP) Jean-Marie Le Pen yesterday hailed calls by mainstream Conservatives for tougher immigration laws as proof his extremist National Front Party has seized the leadership of the French right.

Chatting with reporters covering the eighth party congress, Le Pen said former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing had fallen into step behind him on the issue.

"He has the same values and no doubt the same preoccupations," Le Pen said as delegates roamed through the huge, flag-draped amphitheatre at this French Riviera resort.

Giscard, leader of the Union for

French Democracy (UDF) coalition, proposed a national referendum on immigration on Saturday at a weekend meeting of Conservative leaders. But in an interview with the French television network TF1, he denied he shared Le Pen's views.

The 1,600 delegates chose Le Pen on Saturday to lead the party to what they hope will be victory in legislative elections in 1993 and presidential balloting two years later.

In a 90-minute speech to close the three-day conference on Sunday, Le Pen took a swipe at Giscard as a latecomer to his views on immigration, the most explosive issue in the

country.

"If Giscard d'Estaing starts speaking like Le Pen, the people will prefer the original to the copy," he said. "He'd like to be elected under our ideas rather than fight on his own."

Delegates earlier adopted a wide-ranging platform and installed a 100-member central committee to make major party decisions.

Le Pen, who won world-wide notoriety in 1987 by terming the Holocaust a "detail of history," favours deporting all immigrants who arrived in France since 1974.

About four million of the country's 55 million people are immigrants, the

majority of them Muslims from former French colonies in North Africa.

Meanwhile, leaders of the traditional right concluded their summit in suburban Paris, working out a common position on immigration ahead of talks this week with the socialist government.

Premier Michel Rocard has called for a multiparty offensive on racism following a series of racially motivated killings and beatings over past months. The National Front was not invited to the meeting.

During their two-day meeting, mainstream rightist leaders adopted a tough immigration platform they say must accompany any anti-racism legislation.

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, a former premier and leader of the rally for the republic party, joined Giscard in calling for a nation-wide referendum on immigration.

"Our attitude is founded on the will to defend French society, its civilisation, its personality and its human balance," said Chirac, adding that immigration is "out of control."

A poll taken during a six-month government investigation into racism showed last week that 75 per cent of French citizens thought there were too many north Africans in France.

The Conservatives propose the government enforce firm measures to

deport illegal immigrants, tighten rules for political asylum and shorten student visas from one year to the length of the course.

Under the proposals, only foreign workers with 10-year visas could be joined by their families. French immigration laws would be harmonised with those of the 11 other European Economic Community members.

The Conservatives also favour "constructive dialogue" between public officials and French Muslims, guaranteed religious freedom and new subsidised housing to prevent immigrant ghettos.

Hit man arrested

One of the Mafia's most wanted "hit men" was arrested in the Sicilian town of Palermo on Sunday after nine years on the run, police said.

A spokesman said police had wanted Giuseppe Lucchese, 29, who was seized with his girlfriend, in connection with up to 50 murders, including those of several senior policemen and public figures.

Top anti-Mafia magistrate Giovanni Falcone, who helped to

plan the arrest, described the police operation as one of the most important coups against the Mafia in recent times.

Pre-poll violence kills one in Greece

IRAKLION, Crete, April 2. (Reuters) One man was shot dead and four people were wounded in clashes between rival political parties on the island of Crete on Sunday.

It was the most serious violence to date ahead of Greece's national election next week.

Police said Emmanuel Yakoumakis, 37, was killed during a day of fighting between supporters of Socialist Party leader Andreas Papandreu and Conservative leader Constantine Mitsotakis.

The clashes erupted after Papandreu's supporters erected barricades to stop people driving to the airport to welcome Mitsotakis during a campaign swing through Crete, a socialist stronghold.

A socialist supporter, George Maniatis, 16, was shot in the leg and taken to hospital at night.

In an apparent reprisal, shots were fired later into a group of Mitsotakis supporters from a car, police said. Yakoumakis was killed and a journalist and a boy were wounded.

A woman was accidentally shot and wounded at the start of Mitsotakis's rally in central Iraklion when pistols were fired into the air in a traditional Cretan gesture of celebration.

Papandreu's Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and Mitsotakis's Conservative New Democracy Party exchanged angry notes blaming each other for the violence on Crete.

The outgoing government of Prime Minister Xenophon Zolotas, a neutral political figure who led an all-party administration after inconclusive elections in November, appealed for calm.

Greeks vote for the third time in 10 months next Sunday to try to break a political deadlock which has paralysed the country since Papandreu lost elections last June after eight years in power.

The latest opinion polls suggest that, as in June and November, no party will win an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament.

China arrests 2 for sabotage

BEIJING, April 2. (AP) Sichuan police have arrested two men accused of sabotaging key communications lines for China's satellite launching bases, Sichuan provincial radio said.

The state-run station said the two cut, sabotaged or stole communications lines more than 50 times between November 1988 and January of this year, caused losses of 150,000 yuan.

A transcript of the March 25 radio report was seen in Beijing today.

It said the destruction of the lines in Qionglai county, just west of the provincial capital of Chengdu, disrupted communications between the Chengdu satellite monitoring base and bases in Tibet, Yunnan province.

N. Korean pupils defect to Seoul via Moscow

SEOUL, South Korea, April 2. (AP) Two North Korean students studying in the Soviet Union have defected to South Korea and will arrive in Seoul today, officials said.

Officials at the Foreign Ministry identified the two students as Nam Myung-chul and Park Chul-jin, both 25, who were studying computer engineering at a university in Leningrad.

The students will hold a news conference after their arrival at Seoul's Gimpo International airport this afternoon, they said.

The North Korean students sought refuge in South Korea after defecting to a European nation,

the officials said.

Officials of the European nation involved confirmed the intention of the two students and allowed them to travel to South Korea, they said.

Last year, two North Korean students each from Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany defected to South Korea.

South Korean intelligence officials said earlier that the North Korean embassy in Moscow seized passports of all North Korean students studying in the Soviet Union in an effort to prevent their possible defection.

Decision on mark exchange rate denied

BONN, April 2. (Reuters) West German Labour Minister Norbert Blum denied today that the Bonn government had decided to offer East Germans a less favourable exchange rate than expected when they swap their East German marks for D-marks.

"The government has not made a decision," Blum, who is also social affairs minister, said in a radio interview.

Karl-Otto Poehl, head of the Bundesbank, the West German central bank, unveiled a plan at the weekend to introduce the West German mark into East Germany at a one-for-two rate.

In recent weeks, it was almost taken for granted on both sides of the German border — and on nervous financial markets — that East German marks would be swapped at one-to-one.

Bonn's Finance Minister Theo Waigel supported the Bundesbank plan.

Blum, a member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, insisted that no decision had been made.

Referring to the Poehl plan, he said: "The Central Bank Council has an important voice but it does not decide these affairs alone. It is not the Bundesbank that decides." Blum said Bonn stood by its assurances that East Germans would be better off after currency and economic union with West Germany, which is widely expected to take place this summer.

Public discussion on the conversion rate was of benefit only to speculators on financial markets, not the people of East Germany.

"No-one should get the impression that we are now going to leave our fellow countrymen in East Germany in the lurch," Blum said.

News of the Bundesbank plan and Waigel's support for it caused anger in East Germany.

CDU leader Lothar de Maiziere, East Germany's likely next prime minister, said: "This was not agreed with us in advance in any way."

It appeared the issue could also split Kohl's centre-right cabinet.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, a member of the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), indicated his opposition today.

"I believe the proposals made in the last few days should be carefully reconsidered," he said in a radio interview. "They are not the last word, they cannot be."

Asked if the two-for-one rate could push East German pensioners' incomes below subsistence levels, Genscher replied:

"Yes, of course that would be the result. That is not acceptable."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said on Sunday he would love to be the chancellor of a united Germany.

"Without presuming election outcomes, this is now a possibility at least. It really would crown it all," he said in a radio interview.

Kohl, who will be 60 on Tuesday, said the process of unification had not slowed since East Germany's first free elections two weeks ago.

He said he thought a new East German government would be formed soon after the new conservative-dominated parliament meets on April 5.

"Then we'll work at top speed to unveil a package to East and West Germans early in May which contains the foundations of monetary and social union and an economic community," he added.

Kohl's centre-right government has offered to replace the weak East German currency with its powerful Deutschmark, to prop up the East's ailing economy and convince East Germans unity is on its way.

But a proposal from West Germany's powerful central bank, the Bundesbank, supported by Finance Minister Theo Waigel at a meeting in Ireland on Saturday, for the exchange rate to be set at one West German mark for every two East German marks, has created a political furor in both states.

Lithuania rejects Kremlin demands

Soviet troops and tanks manoeuvre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 2. (Reuters) Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis, ahead of a crucial parliamentary debate today, has again rejected Soviet demands to renounce a March 11 declaration of independence.

"We can't do it because we have no mandate to do it," he told Israel Radio by telephone.

But in a sign of flexibility, Landsbergis said he viewed a warning of "grave consequences" from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Saturday as a possible opening to a dialogue with Moscow.

"It's a warning and... also a proposition, a proposition to dialogue,"

Gorbachev's appeal said: "If now the voice of reason is not heeded, events could have grave consequences for all of us."

A Lithuanian legislative official had said a compromise could be proposed when parliament resumed its sitting.

A hint of compromise emerged at the weekend when an aide to Landsbergis said the deputies might consider re-wording their independence proclamation.

But Landsbergis told Swedish television that the question of retracting or rephrasing Lithuania's independence was complicated. "We cannot in any full sense take it back because we had a real mandate for it from our electors."

But he said he was prepared to negotiate with the Soviet Union over independence, although he would need to consult his people first. A team of negotiators had left from Moscow and was expected to contact Soviet authorities today.

Lithuania was annexed in 1940, along with Latvia and Estonia, which has announced its own steps towards independence.

Sporadic clashes continued at another Soviet trouble-spot, the border between the republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Local journalists said several people had been killed in the past few days in the dispute over territory which has crippled the two Caucasian republic's economies and led to the evacuation of women and children from border villages.

The Azerbaijani Communist Party, meeting in the capital Baku, appealed to Gorbachev to take firm action against Armenian militants. It also transferred some of its leaders.

Lithuania should bow to Soviet demands and hold a referendum on independence, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said in an interview published today.

"It must be clearly said to our Lithuanian friends that they cannot escape negotiations and the rules governing the exercise of the right (of independence)," he told the Rome newspaper Il Tempo.

De Michelis said one of the rules Moscow would like to apply to the breakaway Baltic republic was the holding of a referendum in which two thirds of voters opted for independence.

"I'm told Lithuanian leaders are scared they would lose a referendum and thus not have the necessary conditions for secession. The passage of a referendum seems to me to be inevitable," De Michelis said.



Landsbergis

Iliescu must quit, demand protestors

BUCHAREST, April 2. (AP) Thousands of demonstrators demanded the resignation of the country's interim president during a protest march yesterday through downtown Bucharest.

The atmosphere was festive, rather than angry, as the crowd passed the heavily guarded government building on Victory Square, chanting "down with communism," "down with Iliescu."

Ion Iliescu is the country's interim president and head of the National Salvation Front, which took power after the December revolution that toppled longtime communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The Front is the dominant force of the provisional National Unity Council, which rules Romania in the run-up to elections scheduled for May 20.

The elections will be the country's first free balloting since 1947, when the Communist Party imposed a single-party dictatorship that lasted until December.

Pre-election polls have indicated the Front is the most popular party.

Speakers at the rally on Victory Square, where participants flew brightly coloured kites, accused Iliescu of being a "closet communist."

Hundreds of troops and paramilitary policemen and a line of armoured personnel carriers blocked the entrance to government headquarters.

Earlier, the demonstrators knelt and prayed on University Square, the site of heavy fighting during the revolution that toppled Ceausescu on Dec 22. The demonstrators were joined by hundreds of bystanders as they marched through downtown Bucharest. They dispersed peacefully early in the afternoon.

Haralamb Zupescu, a former political prisoner and one of the organisers of yesterday's demonstration, said it was sponsored by free unions and other opposition groups.

In a related development, Ion Braianu, the leader of the newly born Liberal Union and a former leader of the National Liberal Party, announced his candidacy for the office of president.

The younger brother of Ceausescu, Lieutenant-General Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu goes on trial today accused of killing seven people during last December's revolution.

There are also growing calls for Moscow to open its files on the camps, run by Stalin's dreaded NKVD security police between 1945 and 1950 after Hitler's Reich collapsed.

The Lithuanian leader said in the broadcast today.

Lithuania's parliament is due to debate Gorbachev's appeal today in the capital Vilnius where Soviet troop carriers and light tanks patrolled yesterday in a tightening of screws on the rebel Baltic republic.

"These manoeuvres of Soviet troops and tanks are not normal but we have no voice," Landsbergis told the radio which quoted him as saying Lithuania had for some time said it was open to dialogue.

Landsbergis said previously that Gorbachev's warning — the toughest in three weeks of verbal sparring — showed the Kremlin leader was ignoring Western calls to launch talks with the breakaway government.



Demonstrators protest against the political corruption of the television staff and chant "Down with Iliescu." "No more communists," in front of the television station in Bucharest on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

France blaze under control: New fires broke out Sunday in the Bordeaux, France, while firefighters kept control of a huge blaze that destroyed 6,000 hectares (15,000 acres) of pine trees in the Gironde Forest.

Four aircraft continuously dumped water on the large fire, which erupted Saturday near the villages Sainte Helene and Carcans and forced the evacuation of more than 60 families.

Five smaller blazes sparked to life in the drought-stricken wooded region of southwestern France. All were quickly controlled. The largest, near Boudeneac, consumed 500 hectares (1,235 acres). (AP)

Dutch fighting oil spill: The Dutch Coast Guard on Sunday were cleaning up an oil spill 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) long and 700 metres (660 yards) wide allegedly pumped deliberately into the North Sea by an unidentified ship. Dutch television reported in Den Helder.

Name and nationality of the ship are being withheld "in the interest of the investigation," the report said.

It was not immediately clear whether any one had been arrested in the case, but coast guard authorities believe the dumping was deliberate, according to the television report. Attempts to reach the coast guard for comment were unsuccessful. (AP)

'La Trojans' show rescheduled: Directors of the Ultramodern Opera-Bastille on Sunday rescheduled a performance of Berlioz's "The Trojans" for angry fans holding tickets for a cancelled weekend performance.

Some 3,000 people, many travelling from abroad or the French provinces, were turned away Saturday after a strike by technicians forced management to cancel that evening's performance.

It was the first cancellation of a show at the glass-and-steel structure since the opening performance of Hector Berlioz's six-hour epic two weeks ago. (AP)

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Required by the Editorial Office of the medical journal of the Kuwait Health Science Centre. Experience in a medical environment is essential, as well as office organisation and word processing skills. Previous publications experience is an asset and a native English speaker is preferred.

Please send C.V. to:
Medical Principles and Practice,
Faculty of Medicine,
P.O. Box 24923,
13110 Safat, Kuwait.

KUWAIT ... GULF

MOE preparing new school exam charter

Action against private tutors

THE Ministry of Education is preparing a new charter for exams at schools and students appearing for the Secondary School Certificate, according to the Undersecretary, Abdul Rahman Al Khudari.

The new charter is intended to streamline an effectively control, supervision of exams and avoid past confusions and episodes of cheating and attacks on teachers. The new charter is expected to be announced within the next few days.

Khudari pointed out that the ministry will not be lenient with teachers who give private lessons to pupils at their houses and will take strict action against these erring teachers — specially to those teachers who give private lessons to pupils

that they teach in schools.

The official said that the ministry has agreed with the Ministry of Information to transmit intensive courses and lessons for pupils in their houses through a special TV channel for one hour a day.

Water network to be replaced

HEAD of the Water Department at the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Saud Al Naser stated that the ministry has conducted a study aimed at replacement of all cement network.

Interviewed by a local daily, he said that a special programme based upon the replacement of networks according to age has been prepared. The first stage of this project has been executed and the second stage is expected to be completed by the end of next year. The third stage is expected to be completed by the end of 1992.

Supervision

On the fourth stage, the official said that it has been awarded to two local consultants who have been designated to conduct the designing and supervision of the project which is expected to be completed in 1993.

A total of 13 areas in Kuwait have been entirely replaced with networks and the ministry has also ensured continuity of water supply while replacement work is in progress, Naser said.



Women pedlars on the streets of Jahra

Clampdown on Jahra hawkers

THE Municipality Control for Jahra organised a special inspection campaign recently to seize goods and arrest unauthorised hawkers in the Jahra area. The General Controller of the Sixth area, Faraj Al Arada led the inspection campaign which witnessed the participation of assistant general director, Kareem Salman Al Enizi, 25 female and 3 male pedlars were arrested during the campaign.

Interviewed by Seyassah Arada stated that upon directives from the acting general director, Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Ali, restrictive measures are being taken to control and censor all Kuwaiti areas. He added that several inspection campaigns have been organised to eradicate this phenomenon. He said that it was an uncivilised feature of Kuwait adding that the campaign organised by the control included

areas of Al Qosar, Naem, and Tayma Al Waha in addition to co-operative societies branches, and health clinics. He pointed out that huge quantities of children toys and games, and food stuff were seized during the campaign.

The control also organised another campaign after the end of school hours where more than 15 icecream pedlars have been cited.

Arada called for residents and citizens co-operation by not buying from pedlars indicating that the phenomenon has dropped in numbers from the past. He added that the control also chases vegetable pedlars on express roads with the co-operation of express roads patrols at Jahra area.

He said that a special health committee has been formed to inspect Jahra schools and present regular reports.

Beit Sahour

Appeal for urgent assistance

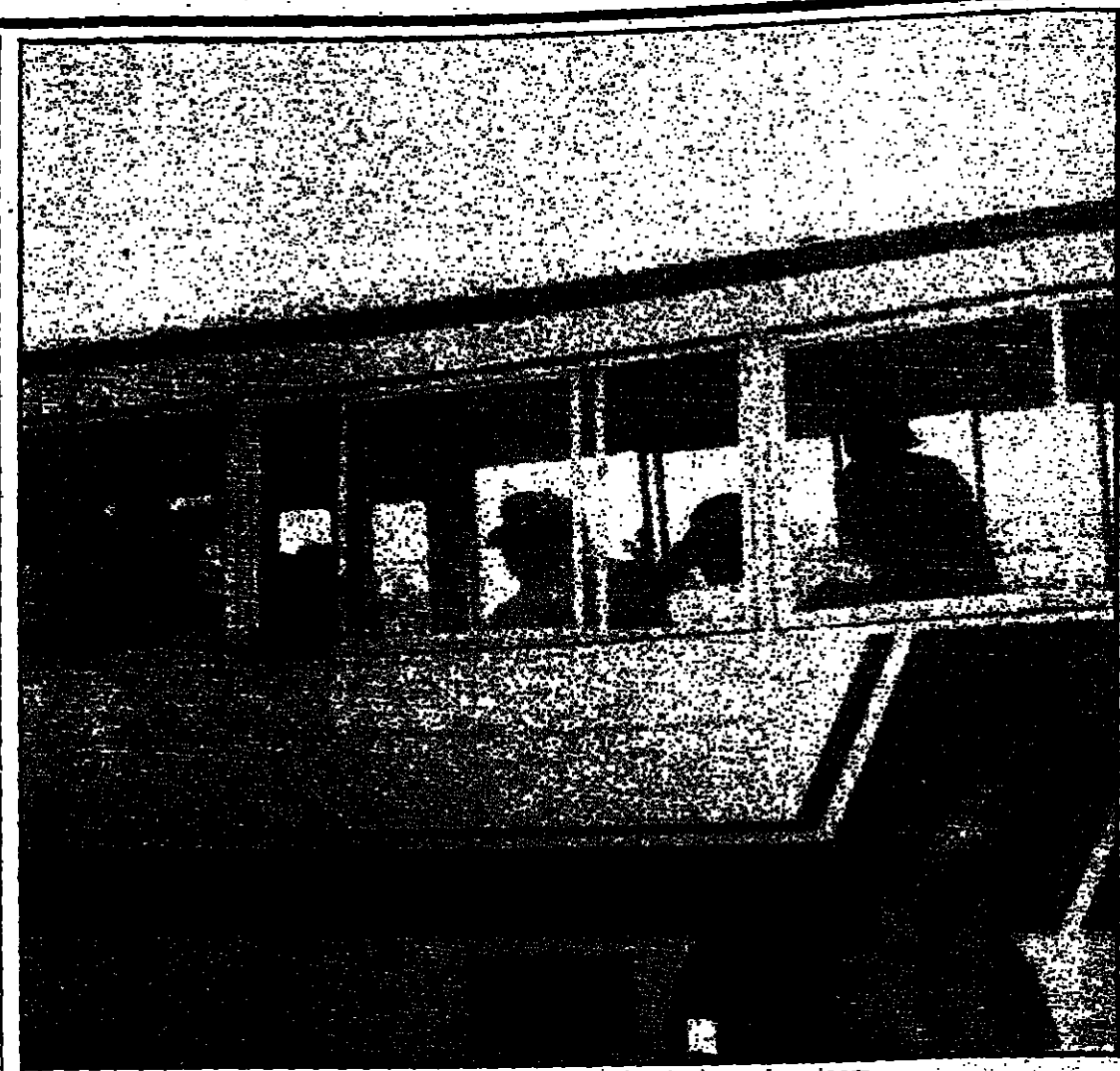
KUWAIT, April 2, (Kuna): The Mayor of the Beit Sahour Village of the occupied West Bank Hanna Al Atrash has appealed to Arab countries to render urgent assistance to his village which faces oppressive starvation measures at the hands of the Zionist authorities to the extent that threatens residents of starvation to death.

"If the Arabs want us to be steadfast (before the Israelis) on our homeland, they have to extend support to this steadfastness through various means and channels," Atrash said.

The Palestinian official was speaking to Kuna after meeting here with president and Secretary-General of the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saquer and Barges Himoud Al Barges respectively.

Atrash, who is currently on a visit to Kuwait following similar visits to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, reviewed the suppressive practices being imposed by the occupation authorities.

President of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdul Aziz Al Saqr also received Atrash and his accompanying delegation.



Juvenile delinquents being transported to the home for minors.

Delinquents hit back at laws for juveniles

Parents responsible, say minors

A NUMBER of minors who have been accused of delinquent behaviour hit hard at the laws governing their cases and described them as without mercy.

Minors who have been ordered to be confined in delinquent homes for committing criminal offences stressed that the laws tackling their problems lack considerations of humanitarian aspects of their problems. They narrated their tales to substantiate their claim against the law and against the way they were handled.

One girl, aged 16, said that it was her father who handed her over to the prosecution for allegedly beating her step-mother. She emphasised that she was simply defending herself against the continuous harassment of her step-mother. She demanded that her father be brought to court for trial since he showed no responsibility protecting her and failed to provide her a decent life.

The girl said that her step mother was accustomed to beating her mercilessly with a shoe. She tried one time only to defend herself and the result was a court order to keep her in the minors home to "amend her behaviour." The girl said that her mother had left her father and married another man. She stressed that her father's cruelty forced her mother to leave him.

Angry She said that now the father seems to be interested only in revenge.

Asked about her position in the home for delinquents, she said it is still better than her father's house. But added that she is just very angry at her fate when her father and step-mother should have been punished and not she.

The girl added that she was an outstanding student at school and now she has to leave classes. The girl was very pessimistic about her future. She said that she is confident that no one will ever come to pick her up from the home because her father does not want her. She simply does not know where to go. Although she does not like the home she does not know where to go either after.

Information division complains of overload

IT seems that it is now the turn of the employees of the Information Division at the Ministry of Communications i.e. Telephone 101 to complain against the public.

They recently overtly complained that they daily receive about 68,000 telephone calls — most of which are unjustified. These calls are spread over three shifts — 35,000 in the morning, 20,000 in the afternoon and 13,000 in the night shift.

They called for setting up a special telephone exchange to deal with the Ministries and Touristic Enterprises telephone enquiries. They pointed out that 80 per cent of their calls related to these two sectors. They further said that there are 25 employees working at the Telephone Exchange 101 and commented that this number of employees is totally insufficient to handle the volume of enquiries.

her remand period expires.

According to statistics released by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, the side supervising the welfare and remand homes for all social sections, the highest rate of female minors ordered to stay at the home for minors come from Sabahiya and Firdous areas. Many of the girls at the home are there for running away from their families.

Statistics According to a statistical study prepared recently by the department of research and studies of the Interior Ministry, family stability was found to have a direct effect on juvenile delinquency.

The study found that 51 per cent of delinquent juveniles lived in families with innumerable disputes, 42 per cent of them lived in broken homes either because of divorce or because of the death of one or both parents, 51.5 per cent of them had bad company, 12.5 per cent were treated cruelly and fathers of 77.3 per cent of them were illiterates.

A 16-year-old boy who has already spent four years of his young life in the home for minors, also claimed he did not deserve to be kept in there. He admitted he had escaped many times from the home and each time he was brought back. The boy said that his parents were divorced and they hate each other. He used to spend some time with his father and some other with his mother. He said that in order to prove that he loves me, his father gave him lot of money. When the boy asked

him for pigeons the father brought them without fail.

The boy said that one day one of the pigeons escaped to his neighbour's house. He jumped over the roof and went after the pigeon which soon returned back leaving him alone at the neighbour's roof. Coincidentally, the neighbours came up to find the boy there and accused him of attempted theft. He was taken to the police station and later brought to the home for "a crime I did not commit," he claims.

Desperation

Desperation has forced some delinquent juveniles to submit applications for adoption, then these fathers backed as they are basically responsible for the problem. But concerned officials have not moved any case so far. One boy said he grew up to find his father an addict. He divorced his mother and both were later married to others. The boy said that he stays with his father where his step-mother insults him or with his mother where his step father does not like him. He said that as a result of this miserable life, he started taking and inhaling cocaine and Patex along with a number of his colleagues. The police later caught them and put them in the house. The boy stressed that the cause of his problem is his father. "He is the cause of my problem. I want to file a case against him, please do that for me," the boy appealed. But his appeal is certainly going to be lost in the shelves of some official because the law does not punish parents for failing to bring up their children in the proper way.

GCC anti-crime co-operation a success

INTERPOL does not deal with political, religious, military or cases of apartheid. Major Abdul Wahhab Al Wuhabe, assistant director-general of International and Arab Criminal Police Department said.

Speaking on this issue, the official said that Kuwait had agreed to join the organisation during the general assembly meeting of this organisation that took place in Brazil. Since its inception, Kuwait had demonstrated in actively playing its role through the Arab Organisation for Social Defence and Counteracting Crimes.

In this respect, Kuwait's Ministry of Interior had established the National Central Bureau for Criminal Police in 1966 in compliance with the Arab Organisation for Social Defence and Fighting Crimes. Several agreements for extradition with several countries had been concluded with Kuwait, the official said.

He went on to state that in 1982 the Council of the Arab Interior Ministers had been established and Kuwait had joined this council which aims at enhancing co-operation among the Arab countries towards setting up general guidelines which aim at developing Arab joint activities in the area of security and prevention of crime.

The official said that co-operation prevailing among the GCC countries in addressing crime was constructive and fruitful and on a level with advanced countries. Cases that fall within the agreement of extradition, he said are murder, forgery, smuggling of drugs, terrorism, sexual violations and other serious offences.

On terrorism, the official said that the Arab Ministers of the Interior Council paid special concern to this issue, by empowering the Secretariat General of the Council to prepare a draft Arab strategy for fighting terrorism in co-operation with the Secretariat General of the Arab League.

CONDOLENCE

Mrs Cecilia C Nakshbendi and family

accept condolences on the passing away of her mother in the USA on Tuesday, April 3rd and Wednesday April 4th, 1990 from 8.30 to 11.00 pm at their flat #41 Block "C", 8th Floor, Bibi Complex, On the corner of Arabian Gulf Road and 3rd Ring Road.

New phone sets

MOC denies authorisation

THE Ministry of Communication has decided not to authorise the use of telephone sets advertised in the local newspaper by a company based in one of the GCC countries. These sets have the advantage of projecting the telephone number of the caller on a small computer panel, an official source said.

He told a local daily that the relevant ministry technicians have carried out a series of tests on the advertised product and discovered that in order to get the unique advantage of learning the caller's number the calling party must programme his telephone number to be projected by the computer panel on the receiving end.

Results also revealed that these telephone sets could not solve the chronic problem of harassment over the phone. The reason is any individual can programme a different number than his own and make nuisance calls to others, which eventually will result in a series of problems of unforeseen magnitude, he added.

He said that in order for the subscribers to enjoy the privilege of finding out the telephone number of the caller, it is essential to carry out a major technical change in the operating telephone exchanges.

The ministry requested subscribers to refrain from acquiring these telephone sets, which are not authorised for use in Kuwait.

Zakat House busy collecting donations

DURING the Holy Month of Ramadan, Zakat Committees centred in different areas of Kuwait are very busy collecting Zakat from various Muslims. In this respect, the Zakat and donations Committee at Abdullah Al Othman Mosque is considered to be one of Kuwait's oldest committees established in 1973 and plays a vital role in assisting the needy in Kuwait and abroad.

A local daily interviewed the committee general secretary, Yahya Abdul Hadi who said that the Othman Committee for Zakat and Donations is the first committee in Kuwait and since its establishment, it played an important role in broadcasting Islamic awareness in Kuwait and other countries.

He said that the committee provided monthly assistance to a total of 238 families in 1989 — excluding assistance on a one time basis. Presently, the committee supports 218 families on a monthly basis.

An amount of KD211,705 has been spent as monthly assistance in 1989 and KD1,096 on a one time basis. In addition the committee sends number of students for education abroad, supplies

relief to refugee camps in Jordan and participates in the treatment of patients outside the country with the co-operation of the Patients Assistance Fund. He said that the committee received KD30,000 from the Zakat House as a back up to its activities.

Meanwhile, head of the Adiliya Zakat Committee, Ahmad Abdullah Al Asfoor stated that his committee is attached to the Islamic Revival Society and is supervised and managed by Zakat House which presents support to different Zakat committees in Kuwait.

The committee was established by a group of youth to assist needy families in society. The committee was established by a group of youth to assist needy families in society. The committee continues supporting families until they become productive job-wise. The house also provides professional training to fathers. The committee assists a total of 34 families in addition to other assistance provided on a one time basis.

All Zakat assistance is termed strictly confidential, the official concluded.

Opec to adopt Kuwaiti proposals

THERE are strong leanings at Opec to adopt Kuwait's proposals for abandoning the quota system and abrogate the agreement to adhere to fixed quota levels of oil production to address the latest developments in the oil markets, a local daily reported.

The daily added that though this trend will need sometime to be adopted, Kuwait had suggested at the beginning of this year to Opec to abandon the quota system and permit state members to produce their own levels based on probabilities of the increase of international demand of oil during the coming few years. This suggestion, was specifically intended to address supply levels which could not be met by Opec.

The daily further said that the Kuwaiti proposals, although not discussed during the last meeting of prices committee of Opec, held in the middle of last month, they have been favourably received by members of Opec.

Realistic

International oil sources described Kuwaiti proposals as practical and realistic in view of the accepted fact that most oil producing countries are not adhering to the preset oil production quotas and are producing their maximum levels. It added that abandoning the agreed quota system will not cause any oil crisis nor a collapse in prices as occurred in 1982, as only three countries will be controlling the future of the oil market.

As an indication they pointed out that oil prices increased to \$20 per barrel during the last few months, although the listed price of Opec is only \$18 per barrel. Thus, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia believe in the feasibility of increasing their production to exceed the maximum level of production of Opec to meet international demands of oil.

Bahrain rounds up illegal workers

By Yakub Razaque
Arab Times staff

A TOTAL of 245 illegal expatriate workers have been rounded up so far this year in view of the government's clampdown to check the increasing number of unauthorised overseas personnel in the labour market in the island. Out of this total, which includes Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi workers, 126 have been deported, Bahrain's Labour Director, Abdul Rahman Zayani revealed recently.

Zayani said that in order to

cope with the increasing number of illegal expatriates a second transit camp has been opened in Muharraq to accommodate the detainees. He added that the new camp which could accommodate up to 90 people has all the facilities of a good hotel ensuring comfortable stay to the workers till arrangements are completed for their repatriation.

Campaign Meanwhile a new campaign has been launched on the recommendation of a high level joint committee of the Labour and Interior Ministries to concentrate search

for illegal expatriate workers mainly in construction sites and markets.

It has been reported in the local press that since the government stepped up its operations with a team of 10 inspectors, the number of runaway workers detained has more than doubled. Most of the detainees were not in possession of their work cards. It is mandatory for all expatriate workers in Bahrain to carry their work or labour cards at work premises. Bahrain employers sponsoring illegal workers are usually fined between BD200 and BD500.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

Farewell old warrior Lew

By Yakub Razaque

IT is not always easy to bid farewell to a colleague especially when he is one of a kind. Parting leaves a touch of sadness and an emptiness of the heart, particularly among journalists who seem forever on the move, when a veteran scribe gives so much in a short time without giving a second thought. Before you know he is gone to explore new horizons and conquer new hearts somewhere else and you wonder whether your paths will cross again.

The name Law Hart is familiar to some of us in Bahrain and to parts of the Middle East and Far East. A man larger than life with an equally big heart, Lew left these shores last week after a stint with the local English daily here, but not without leaving a lasting impression on some minds, including that of this correspondent. My association with this flamboyant character and without a doubt one of the most colourful personalities in journalism everywhere has unfortunately been brief. I met Lew only a few times in the course of a couple of years. But each meeting proved to be more memorable than the previous one as my admiration, respect and friendship for this man grew in stature. For indeed I was in one of his imposing presence and personality like a disciple in front of his Guru. I would never tire of listening to his anecdotes in the course of his long and eventful career as a journalist covering almost all parts of the globe. It would be advisable for any young reporter to go to Law Hart and listen to him talk even for a few minutes to get an education in the real sense of the term. For this is what I got after the "last bash" with Lew in a local hotel.

I can only describe Law Hart as the Errol Flynn of journalism, for true to his spirit Lew swashbuckled his way wherever he did and wherever he went against heavy odds and came out triumphant and alive. Alive to tell his stories which he has relentlessly pursued with the dedication of a true professional and zest for life for over four decades.

This old warrior is the last of his diminishing tribe. I call him warrior because of his never-say-die spirit that got him out of many a "tight spot" in the course of his work. He calls himself a product of the "Old School of Journalism" when values and ethics meant everything to a reporter. He regrets the state of journalism today which he says generally smacks of commercialism and sensationalism to sell stories with the object of only making money. I could well share his sentiment as Lew never cared much about the monetary gains in his quest to cover events and expose the ills of society. His indifference to money can be gauged as he told me how he had been robbed of \$120,000 before leaving Hong Kong after working there for sometime.

Lew Hart is one of these rare individuals whose personality matches his deeds. A man unwilling to compromise his self-respect and conscience for anything and not afraid to challenge the so-called guardians of authority and power. This quality of this extraordinary Englishman is best summed up by one of his personal stories. For certainly Lew's exit from some of the employers he worked for is as dramatic as his gestures and laughter. His boss at a Cairo newspaper he worked for asked him one day "Call me a taxi". "I did". "You are a taxi", he told his Editor-in-Chief, who was also a professor of English and did not really belong to journalism. It took the stunned professor sometime to recover from what he heard before firing Lew. Lew's tongue-in-cheek style may have landed him in some trouble over the years, but never stopped his sense of humour and jolly-lively lifestyle. A true humanitarian who has not been afraid to risk his life for the right causes world-wide. During the Congo rebellion, Lew as a war correspondent, pulled off a stunt that surprised even himself. He killed a man. A colonial soldier began to shoot and kill African children at random because they would grow up to be rebels. Lew's anger knew no bounds as he quietly placed a grenade under the soldier's seat in the vehicle. "He got his behind blown off", said Lew without batting an eyelid.

Lew's generosity in his profession is also legendary. Many a young scribe made it to the top, some serving as bureau chiefs, thanks to the old man's efforts. A natural talent on and off the record, more than anything else Lew Hart is a real human being.

As Lew prepares to take up his next assignment with a Cyprus daily, from England where he returned after 25 years, I can't help but pay this tribute to this dear soul. I am grateful and fortunate to have spent some time with the great Law Hart. As Lew himself says, "The best stories are never published".

Clampdown on Ramadan price hikes

Cabinet approves food aid to Lebanon

KUWAIT, April 2. (Kuna): Kuwait yesterday decided to send medical and food aid to Lebanon to help the Lebanese people overcome their current plight and hoped peace and security would prevail in that war-torn Arab country.

The move was adopted by the Kuwaiti Cabinet in its weekly session held yesterday and chaired by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed told reporters after the meeting.

He said the decision was taken on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan and in recognition of the hardships being faced by the Lebanese people.

Rashed stated that the Cabinet was

briefed at the outset on the two messages received by HH the Amir from Guinean President Brigadier Lansana Conte and Cape Verde's President Aristides Maria Pereira which dealt with means of boosting bilateral relations between Kuwait and each of the two West African states.

The Cabinet was also informed of the guidelines of the five-year developmental plan (1990-95) which represents the first ring of the long-term drive that aims at building Kuwaiti society.

Rashed said the project included a comprehensive evaluation of achievements of the previous five-year plan and the objectives and general policies of the upcoming plan.

The ministers decided to refer the project to the Ministry of Planning in

order to submit it to the Higher Planning Council, Rashed said.

The Cabinet reviewed, endorsed and referred to the Amir Diwan laws including a draft decree on ratification of the Arab agreement to facilitate the flow of cultural exchange and a draft decree on endorsement of a trade agreement between Kuwait and Egypt aimed at strengthening trade exchange between the two countries.

Another draft law on a cultural agreement between Kuwait and West Germany which aims at fostering co-operation between the two countries in cultural and scientific fields was also approved, Rashed said.

The Minister of Trade and Commerce Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khaleel — acting on hints by the Crown Prince and Premier

on speculations concerning price hikes of some food materials that coincided with the advent of the holy month of Ramadan — apprised the Cabinet on commodities affected by the increased and reviewed the range of increase, its causes and the measures taken in this connection.

The Council of Ministers, Rashed said, asked the Ministry of Commerce to act promptly to import necessary amounts of commodities that witnessed price increases and supply the local market with required quantities at suitable prices.

The Cabinet also took note on and endorsed the resolutions of the recent meeting of the municipal committee.

The Council of Ministers discussed a number of other issues and took appropriate decisions.

No crime increase in Jahra: Ismaeel

CHIEF Security Officer of the Jahra Governorate, Colonel Ahmad Ibrahim Ismaeel said that there has not been any increase in the rate of crimes in the governorate.

The recent provision of new arms and modern technological equipment to the Jahra patrols and security officers is part of a longer plan implemented by the Ministry of Interior to provide optimum security to the Jahra Governorate, particularly as it is located on the border, the official said.

He added that liquor smugglers are invariably armed and there have been several cases of them opening machine-gun fire on police patrols. Nevertheless, he said that security forces have shown rare courage in apprehending these criminals. He also commended the services of the coast guards for their competence in thwarting smuggling operations and optimally performing the duties and tasks assigned to them.

Ismaeel said that personal influence plays no role whatsoever in the operation of the security apparatus in the governorate and added that staff members perform their duties with competence, integrity and with a high sense of national responsibility.

He said that there is no intention to cancel the patrols commands or distribute them among existing police stations, adding that such a decision rests with senior ministry officials.

He lauded the co-operation extended by the public to the security forces and said that the ministry offered rewards to the public who co-operate with the police in foiling attempts of a criminal nature.

Kuwait oil for India

KUWAIT, April 2. (Reuters): Kuwait will sell India three million tonnes of crude oil and refined products worth a total of \$447 million during fiscal 1990-91, Indian diplomats said here yesterday.

The diplomats said S.L. Khosla, chairman of the Indian Oil Corp, signed a contract with the Kuwait Petroleum Corp during a visit here last Tuesday to import 1.5 million tonnes of crude and 1.5 million tonnes of kerosene and gas oil.

India was also likely to buy an additional half a million tonnes of crude and 300,000 tonnes of refined products worth \$113 million later in the year beginning April 1, they said.

India purchased two million tonnes of crude and 1.8 million tonnes of products worth 418 million dollars in fiscal 1989-90.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thanks

KUWAIT, April 2. (Kuna): The Amir Diwan expressed in a statement on behalf of His Highness the Amir and the Al Sabah family deep thanks to all those who offered condolences for the death of Sheikh Fatouh Salman Al Hmoud Al Sabah.

Arrested

SECURITY personnel at Al Wafra Area arrested two brothers on charges of attempting to rape two girls in their houses.

Sources said that the two accused posed as detectives and entered the house. However, one of the girls asked for their identity cards and on finding them to be suspicious, hit him with a pipe.

The girls' brother lodged a complaint with the police station and security police successfully apprehended the two culprits.



Night for day

During the holy month of Ramadan, roads in Kuwait wear a deserted look in the period between 1.30 pm to half an hour after Iftar (approximately 6.30 pm). During this period, there are no cars and no pedestrians. Markets, shops, offices and others shut down their doors.

During the month of fasting ministry employees attend duty from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm, two hours short of their daily working hours during other months. Schools also close down at 12.30 pm. Thus, only a very few people can be seen walking in the streets during this "dead" period.

Restaurants and all business related to food services close their doors throughout the day during

all of Ramadan. They open only a few hours before Iftar, (breaking the long fast).

Only sweets and soft drinks shops operate during the period before Iftar to serve buyers with their special Ramadan sweets and dishes. In Kuwait as well as in the rest of the Islamic world, the holy month has its special sweets.

To compensate for the long closure, shops and all the markets in the country remain open till late in the night. Many such shops actually never close down before suhoor, about 4.00 am. Night simply becomes day and vice versa during the holy month. Picture shows a main street wearing the deserted look.

Public prosecutor's office

No effort spared to provide justice

THE chairman of the Court of First Instance Mohammad Fuhaid Al Zub'bi has said that the number of Kuwaiti prosecutors is on the constant increase, and that the number of existing Kuwaiti prosecutors is 91.

He said that the quantities of drugs confiscated and destroyed over the years 1984, 85, 86 and 87 include 227,486 kilograms of hashish, 9,750 kilograms of opium, 5,754 kilograms of heroin, 36,000 kilograms of cocaine, 5,031 cannabis seeds, 1,030 kilograms of hashish plants, 8,307,539 capsules, pills and 78,621 bottles of liquor and beer cans.

He called on all public-conscious citizens to spare no effort in fighting the pernicious danger of drugs on society, and try hard to protect society from the catastrophes caused by the spread of drugs.

He stressed that the Public Prosecution will not appeal any rulings of acquittal issued after trials, if these are commensurate with the right legal application, adding that even rulings based on clemency and leniency will not be appealed if these are legally justified.

He said that there are tens of cases where the Public Prosecution will close the investigation and set the involved suspects free, as the prosecution is a just adversary whose only concern is the correct application of the law and serving justice.

The prosecution supervises the enforcement of sentences in as far as it could rightfully represent society in punishing the guilty, and that its role does not end with the issuance of the sentence but will also look into the release of convicts who have served their quarters of their jail terms, the official said.

He added that the prosecution is also involved in investigating a different series of offences and in referring these

offences to the criminal court if these offences should reach a certain magnitude, such as cases involving the press or cases of public slander.

He stressed that where the court refrains from issuing the sentence it is but a sort of punishment which will be recorded contrary to what many believe to be as good as a ruling of acquittal.

He pointed out that the inspection of houses is not done without prior consent of the Public Prosecution or the relevant competent security authorities, adding that the cases involving the issuance of dud cheques come first on the list of cases entertained by the Public Prosecution or summary prosecutions.

He said that the prosecution will not refer the suspect to the criminal court unless there is evidence that a crime has occurred and that the suspect is deemed legally responsible for this crime because of ample incriminating evidence that are adequate to convict him.

He said that deportation of suspects falls into two categories, one legal and the other administrative, adding that upon conviction of the suspect the court could order the deportation of the convict after serving his jail term, and this is known as the legal deportation, while the administrative deportation falls within the purview of the Interior Ministry.

He pointed out that if a Kuwaiti citizen is wanted for a criminal act in a country other than Kuwait, the prosecution could refer him to court if the act he is committed is condemned under Kuwaiti law.

He said that vandals of public facilities are referred to the court of offences, as there are legal clauses incriminating people convicted of damaging public property, but juveniles are referred to juvenile prosecution.

He said that the death sentences issued by the courts in Kuwait fully derive from the Islamic Sharia and the Holy Quran, the supreme source of godly legislations and that acts punished with the death penalty include premeditated murders, abduction, rape, and drugs, particularly if these acts included resistance of arresting officers.

He said that under the Kuwait law drug dealers are sentenced to 15 years with penal servitude and fined KD 15,000, and that the dealers could also face life imprisonment in case of going back to the same practice, but if police resistance results in the death of a police officer, the sentence is death.

He pointed out that imbibers of drugs are sentenced to 5 years and fined KD 5,000, and that close relatives of addicts could report them to the court and the court will take the necessary arrangements for him to be admitted into a health centre to join a rehabilitation programme.

Under the Kuwait penal code any person who treats hired househelps as slaves, will be jailed from maximum five years and fined KD 5,000, but no such cases have been examined by the courts here.

He said that the public prosecutor will supervise the destruction of confiscated liquor, drugs and other contraband in the presence of representatives from the Health Ministry, Interior Ministry and Intelligence.

Meanwhile, the head of the Higher Judgement Council, Judge Mohammed Yousef Al Rifai has said that work at different courts are usually not delayed by the onset of Ramadan, as sessions are opened as normal at 9.00 am everyday. The courts review the same number of cases as during other months of the year, the official said.

Senate move on Jerusalem denounced

MANAMA, April 2. (AP): Bahrain, which has close ties with United States, yesterday denounced a US Senate resolution recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

A statement issued after the Cabinet's weekly session called on all states to condemn the Senate move "in the interests of world peace and security and to preserve the rights of the Palestinian Arab people which the resolution has ignored."

The Senate resolution recognized Israel's right to annex the Arab, eastern part of the holy city of Jerusalem in 1948 and later declared its capital.

The March 22 resolution, which expresses the opinion of the Senate and is not binding on the US government, ran counter to the policies of US administrations, including that of President George Bush.

They have refused to accept the annexation and says Jerusalem's future should be the subject of Arab-Israeli negotiations. Bush has reaffirmed that policy.

The resolution "contravenes all international laws and norms and violates United Nations resolutions which prevent an occupying power from changing status of the territories it holds," the Cabinet statement said.

Impediment

The Prime Minister, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa said: "It was adopted at a time that the world is moving toward peaceful solutions of international problems and it can pose a major impediment to the peacemaking efforts in the region."

He said that the resolution will "provoke Arab and Islamic feelings."

Arab governments and the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference have condemned the Senate resolution. They included Saudi Arabia, a key US ally.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other countries of the Gulf have been traditionally pro-Western. They have strong military and economic links with the United States.

Bone marrow transplants in three years

By Lima Al Khalafawi

Arab Times staff

OVER 350 cases of Thalassemia patients ranging in ages between seven months to 21 years old, are treated in Kuwait hospitals, Dr Hala Al Remawi said during a lecture recently at the Kuwait Medical Association.

She added that the main symptoms related to anaemia are bone expansion causing Thalassemic features and enlargement of spleen and liver. Other symptoms related to complications are iron accumulation in skin and in glands which may cause diabetes and short stature plus delayed puberty.

Dr Duraid Al Dagistani spoke about the nature of the disease as an inherent impairment of haemoglobin synthesis in which there is partial or complete failure to synthesise, a specific type of globin chain.

On treatment, Dagistani said that it is either by regular blood transfusion every four weeks, iron chelation by special pump, removal of the spleen and marrow transplant.

The official said that doctors in Kuwait might be able to carry out bone marrow transplants in three years.

A Jordanian family who had three Thalassemic children said that their eldest son had a successful bone marrow transplant in Italy last year. "The heavy daily cost of treatment in the hospital of KD70 was worth the tremendous sacrifices the entire family had to undergo to save his life," they said.

Higher education draft law finalised

New university approved

THE Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Dr Musaed Al Haroun was quoted as saying that the draft law of higher education has recently been finalised and is awaiting final approval from the authorities.

Speaking to a local daily, the official said that the committee empowered to study the organisational structure of the ministry is still following up this issue within the framework of the tasks to be undertaken by the ministry and its supervisory role on the higher educational institutions.

Haroun said that the ministry represented by Kuwait University spares no effort in directing students to take up specialisations that are sorely needed by the country and in response to the development schemes of the country. Additionally, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet) plays its significant role towards providing the local market with its requirements of the workforce for projects deemed of national importance.

Levels

The official said that the ministry has adopted a scholarship plan in co-operation with governmental authorities to meet the country's requirements for specialists in different sectors.

Commenting on youth's refraining from joining the applied institutes, the official said that this could be attributed to the graduates of these applied institutes to be given the same privileges and grades as those accorded to the graduates of the arts colleges. He added that it is now high-time to appropriate radical measures and enhance the financial and moral incentives of the applied institutes graduates.

Speaking on the level of higher studies at Kuwait University, the undersecretary said that since its establishment, it had shown keen interest in developing the level of higher studies, and in 1977 had established the Higher Studies Faculty. The faculty confers the degrees of Masters in Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Medicine, Engineering and Arts. Further, Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's budgets have been continually on the increase in view of the expansion in setting up faculties and departments to accommodate the increasing number of students.

On expenditure, the official said that renovation projects of Kuwait University had amounted to KD140 million and these projects will be implemented during the forthcoming five-year plan. This 1990/1991 — 1994/1995 plan aims at developing the current sites of the university to keep abreast with the international academic systems and includes the construction of new buildings and modernising of the current projects in addition to upgrading of the laboratories and scientific facilities.

Speaking on the relation between Paaet and the labour market, the official said that the authority had been established to meet the requirements of the ministries and governmental institutions in addition to meeting requirements of the labour market for technical specialists.

Haroun denied that large numbers of students had left the faculties of the authorities and said that this percentage did not exceed 10 per cent, which is insignificant compared to the large number of students who had joined the authorities institutes during the last few years.

The undersecretary said that the cabinet had finally agreed to

the setting up of another university at Al Shaddadiya area which is scheduled to be constructed during the second half of the current decade. The new university campus has been designed to accommodate the increasing number of students during the forthcoming years, Haroun said.

Meanwhile, the ministry of education will conduct exams for 500 candidates participating in the training course organised by the ministry for supervisors at kindergartens and primary schools and for senior teachers of intermediate and secondary schools.

Disclosing this information, the director of co-ordination and follow up of Public Education Department at the ministry, Sheikh Al Misalam said that the results of the examinations will be announced after one week of the examinations that will be held on the 4th and 8th of this month.

The course began on February 12th, 1990 and doctors from the university and some supervisors and headmasters as well as experienced teachers lectured at the course, the official said.

Misalam pointed out that the ministry of education will open three new schools of the courses system next academic year. One for boys at Farwaniya Educational Area and two schools, one for boys and the other for girls in Hawalli Educational Area.

The official denied that there are any shortage of teachers at these schools, though he admitted that there is a need of music teachers but added that this will be solved very shortly. In this connection, the ministry is imparting training to a large number of graduates of institutes and those who possess the secondary school certificate to become proficient music teachers, Misalam said.

New specialised heart centre soon

DUE to the sharp increase of heart diseases — specially among the young, a specialised centre is expected to be built near the Chest Diseases Hospital, the secretary-general of Kuwait Heart Society, Dr Rashed Al Uwaish said.

Disclosing that contributions were collected from the public for the project, he added that the building of this centre is one of the main aims of the society, including its objectives to prevent the increase in heart ailments. Accordingly, the society carries out several informational programmes to enlighten the public about the grave risks of heart diseases.

The official said that they are seeking ways to allocate some seats for heart diseases at the Faculty of Medicine of Kuwait University and to organise local and international conferences to highlight this issue. The society undertakes several informational programmes to enlighten the public about this diseases and also undertakes scientific researches and extend scholarships to doctors specialising in this field of medicine. The society allocates a financial reward for the best research on heart diseases, the official said.

Uwaish said that the society was established in 1982 and since then has achieved several achievements in this field. The society participated in two international conferences, one in 1983 and the other in 1985 and eight specialists were sent to present their papers on heart diseases at each conference. The society also participates in school activities by lecturing on different topics of the heart beside organising scientific competitions and organised a grand competition for school pupils in 1988, the success rate being 60 per cent.

The society has highlighted the real dangers of smoking and has suggested several projects such as undertaking comprehensive blood tests at co-operative societies, against symbolic charges, the official said.

Saudis self-sufficient in wheat

WASHINGTON April 2 (AP): No wish list of American farmers comes even close to the saga of how Saudi Arabia turned from a wheat importer to an exporter in a single decade.

All it took was a decision, big oil revenues and some fantastically high farm subsidies, says US Agriculture Department economist John Parker.

In 1980, Saudi Arabia decided to become self-sufficient in wheat by offering domestic producers \$1,032 per metric ton, or about \$28 per bushel. At that time, Parker said, US wheat was selling on the world market for \$175 dollars per ton, or \$4.78 per bushel.

During oil embargos of the 1970s, when Saudi Arabia and other petroleum exporters sent prices soaring, there was some talk in international trade policy circles of linking the price of oil to the price of wheat.

"Now, this is very unlikely to happen because Saudi Arabia is no longer a wheat importer," Parker said.

He said Saudi wheat production doubled in 1982 and nearly doubled again in 1983. By 1984, Saudi Arabia was self-sufficient in wheat.

"Surprised at the rapid gains, Saudi officials reduced the price by half in 1984," Parker said. "But \$530 dollars per ton was still a very rewarding figure, and production continued to climb."

Then planners in Riyadh, the capital, tried to encourage farmers to shift from wheat to less-profitable barley. Those efforts fizzled last year when Saudi farmers harvested a record wheat crop of 3.1 million tons.

Exports, meanwhile, rose to 2.4 million tons in 1987-88, more than double the level of the previous year. But Parker said USDA is forecasting some decline in those exports for 1989-90.

Last year, he said, wheat accounted for about 310 million of Saudi Arabia's \$400 million in agricultural exports.

As a key member of the Gulf Co-operation Council, Saudi Arabia ships about 200,000 tons of wheat to other council members: Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. Parker said the Saudis lose about \$300 per ton on those shipments.

Other Mideast countries get Saudi wheat, including Jordan and Turkey, which received 200,000 tons last year. Previously, Turkey was the Mideast wheat leader but has suffered from drought.

Parker, writing in the April issue of Agricultural Outlook magazine, said Saudi wheat also goes to Indonesia, China, the Soviet Union, Portugal, Norway, the United Kingdom and Colombia.

Despite the government's price cuts, domestic wheat prices and production subsidies are still high enough to allow Saudi farmers and investors to afford the best imported US seed, farm tractors, combines and irrigation systems, he said.

"Alarm at the depletion of underground water reserves, especially near Riyadh, had not yet stopped the wheat production boom," Parker said. "Some farms still have land area to develop, although new licenses were prohibited 18 months ago."

The concern about water reserves helped prompt the government's reduced wheat price guarantees and curtailing some of the other subsidies.

"But removing the seed subsidy and cutting the price still left a hefty profit margin," Parker said. "Many Saudi farmers earn a profit of \$600 per acre, compared with \$60 to \$80 dollars earned by US farmers."

Parker noted that despite the programme's cost of more than \$1 billion annually, the Saudis' main objective of self-sufficiency has been achieved. Overall, the country's dependency on net food imports has been reduced to about 50 per cent from 87 per cent in 1980.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

A MAN wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle—Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

Ethiopia joins fray
Hasty retreat
from socialism

ADDIS ABABA. (Reuters): Every night socialism in Ethiopia fades a little more.

During the curfew hours between midnight and five am groups of workmen take down portraits of Marx and Lenin adorning the streets of Addis Ababa and paint over gaudy slogans reflecting their now abandoned ideology.

Hammers and sickles emblazoned on red stars are blanked out along with slogans extolling the virtues of socialism and proletarian internationalism.

The changes take place only under cover of darkness, perhaps because President Mengistu Haile Mariam is embarrassed to have abandoned 13 years of commitment to Soviet-style socialism in a single three-hour speech.

Conditions

"The prevailing conditions in socialist countries which have reached high levels of development must shed light for us," Mengistu said in an historic address to the Central Committee of his Workers' Party of Ethiopia (WPE) on March 5.

"As seen from all angles, the transition to a socialist system ... has proved difficult and unattainable."

Mengistu went on to announce a lifting of all restrictions on private investment and Ethiopia's speedy transition from a centrally planned to a free market economy.

Unprofitable parastatal companies would be closed or sold off to private enterprise.

Peasants would be free to abandon their co-operatives, work the land individually and sell their crops on a completely free market.

And the doors of this proud but poverty-stricken country, crippled by famine and civil war, would be thrown wide open to foreign investment.

Finally, the WPE would dump its Marxist-Leninist ideology and transform itself into a new broad-based party of national unity.

There was even a broad hint, not fully spelled out, that Ethiopia would become a multi-party democracy.

After so many years of strict authoritarian rule, the public response was subdued, but unmistakably enthusiastic.

The price of teff, Ethiopia's staple food, fell 30 per cent in two days in Addis Ababa's main market in response to the lifting of all controls on agricultural marketing.

And after years of fearful silence, Ethiopians ranging from government officials to market traders began telling foreigners how terrible socialism really was.

Karl Marx

Students sprayed green paint and smeared excrement over a bust of Karl Marx outside Addis Ababa University.

And people joked that a 10-metre (35-foot) statue of Lenin in the city centre was already facing towards the airport.

But although Mengistu has admitted he was wrong to have imposed socialism on Ethiopia, no-one has any illusions that he is planning to quit power.

The workmen who removed the huge poster of Marx, Engels and Lenin in revolution square left up the one next to it showing Mengistu leading workers and peasants towards a better future.

Diplomats say Mengistu's reforms were not just a response to the changing situation in Eastern Europe.

They were also, and perhaps more importantly, a response to military setbacks in the civil war in the north and a weakening of Ethiopia's fragile economy.

"Everybody is surprised by the rapidity of the changes and how far they have gone. We never expected it. I think it has to do with the desperate military situation," one senior Western diplomat told Reuters.

Over the last six months, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has broken out of its stronghold in the northern province of Tigray to surge southwards, coming at one point to within 120 km (75 miles) of the capital.

The other main rebel movement, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) has meanwhile captured the Red Sea port of Massawa, isolating more than 100,000 government troops in a landlocked enclave that can only be supplied by air.

Budget

On the economic front, diplomats say the government is devoting two thirds of its budget to the war effort at a time when revenues from coffee exports are falling and the flow of aid from its former allies in Eastern Europe is drying up fast.

Although the scope and rapidity of the changes announced by Mengistu surprised many diplomats, they were not wholly unexpected.

For the last two years the government had been quietly easing controls on agricultural marketing and private investment and it was well known that more liberalisation measures were in the pipeline.

"Most of these things were not pulled out of a hat. Most of them we had heard rumours about over the last four to six months," one diplomat said.

Western donors are generally pleased by the economic reforms, which consist of policy measures they and the World Bank have been urging Ethiopia to adopt for years.

But few are planning to expand long-term development aid while the war in the north continues.

"We see the reforms as a good sign for the future long-term development of the country, but I reiterate our concern about a permanent ceasefire and peace talks," Canadian Overseas Development Minister Monique Landry told Reuters during a recent visit to Addis Ababa.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1512 — Beyazid II, sultan of Turkey, abdicates in favour of his son, Selim I.

1559 — Peace treaty between France and Spain is signed.

1584 — Duke of Parma, Italy, recovers Ypres, Belgium, from Dutch.

1612 — Protestant Union of Germany signs defensive alliance with England.

1693 — Sweden's King Charles XII declares himself absolute.

1742 — Prussians lose Olmutz, Czechoslovakia, as Frederick II's Moravian campaign fails.

1776 — Russia, by Treaty of Copenhagen with Denmark, cedes her claim to Olstein.

1833 — Attempt by revolutionaries to take over Frankfurt Diet in Germany is crushed.

1929 — Persia signs Litvinov Protocol, or Eastern Pact for renunciation of war.

1930 — Ras Tafari becomes Emperor Haile Selassie of Abyssinia (Ethiopia).

1941 — British troops evacuate Libyan port of Benghazi during World War II.

1948 — United States allocated \$5.33 billion in foreign aid to 16 European nations.

1972 — Japan's prime minister Eisaku Sato acknowledges to the Diet (Parliament) personal responsibility for negotiations over the return of Okinawa from the United States to Japan.

1979 — Pakistan's former prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, ousted in coup 21 months earlier, is executed by hanging.

1988 — Iraq says its warplanes raided two Iranian oil refineries, but Iran says the bombs hit residential areas.

1989 — Black guerrillas and South African-led security forces wage fierce hand-to-hand battles in northern Nigeria.

WHAT'S OUR STRATEGY FOR 1992?



MAYBE ISOLATE JACKSON

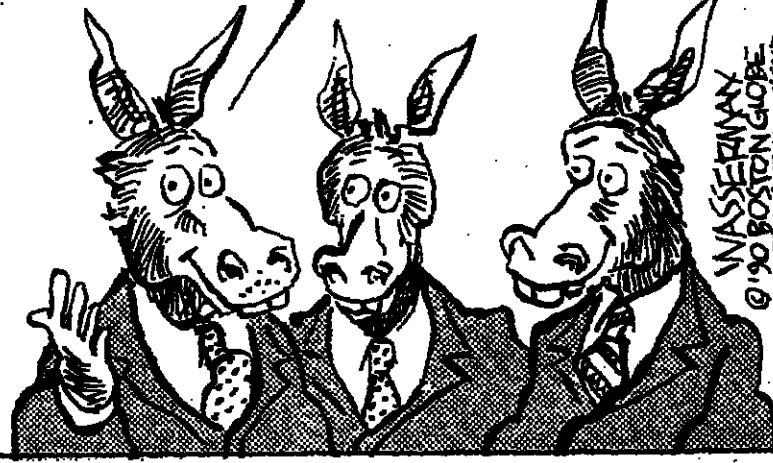


BETTER YET—DISCREDIT JACKSON

BLOCK JESSE JACKSON NO, STEAMROLLER JACKSON



WHO SAYS OUR PARTY LACKS HEALTHY DEBATE AND FRESH IDEAS?



Lithuania, Estonia leaving fold

Soviet empire could collapse

MOSCOW. (AP): Flexing its military muscle, the Kremlin blusters at Lithuania's leaders for boldly declaring independence. Yet it hardly uttered a critical word when Estonia issued a cautious statement of similar intent.

The two republics, forcibly annexed by Moscow in 1940 with the third Baltic state of Latvia, are treading very different paths in their quest for secession.

Lithuanians demand recognition now and want to work out the details later. Estonians want to know exactly what they are getting into.

Yearnings

Watching and waiting are Latvia, Georgia, Moldova and other Soviet republics where yearnings to leave the Soviet Union are also strong.

On Friday, when Soviet soldiers were seizing the Lithuanian prosecutor's office in an effort to impose Moscow's will, Estonia's legislature was declaring the Soviets occupiers and setting off on the road to restored sovereignty.

The reaction of Moscow has been as different as the tactical divergence in the Baltic independence movement that surfaced in 1988.

Soviet military officials accuse Lithuania's leaders of plotting to jail opponents of secession and encouraging Lithuanians to desert the Red Army. President Mikhail Gorbachev has accused them of pursuing a "ruinous" road.

In contrast, the Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda on Saturday noted that "even Estonian radicals say: first negotiations and then a political decision."

The three Baltic states snatched independence from the ruins of the Russian empire at the end of World War I, were forcibly absorbed back into the Soviet Union in 1940 and spent most of World War II under Nazi occupation.

Thousands of Baltic people were then exiled to Siberia or killed by Stalin as alleged Nazi collaborators or enemies of Soviet power. Armed resistance to Soviet rule lasted well into the 1950s in Lithuanian forests.

Latvia is moving more slowly than its neighbours because its population is only about half ethnic Latvian, but Lithuanian and Estonian leaders say they hope it also will make a first formal move toward independence. Despite tactical differences, activists from the three republics co-operate closely.

Lithuania's Premier, Kazimiera Prunskiene, called Estonia's move Friday a "show of support" for her republic but said she did not know whether it would help or hurt.

President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania said: "Estonia has chosen a different legal formula and a different path toward its independence, but the essence is the same."

Independence

The March 11 declaration of independence by Lithuania's Parliament was a hasty move aimed at pre-empting Gorbachev from using newly expanded presidential powers to dissolve their Parliament or impose direct Kremlin rule. But immediately after the declaration, nothing really changed. Lithuanians still used Soviet money and still were working in factories tied by contract and supply to the Soviet economy.

The legislature elected last month then began removing the trappings of Soviet rule, named cabinet ministers and began developing its own body of laws.

Moscow cracked down. Soviet troops raided hospitals to seize Lithuanians who, asserting their claim to be foreign citizens, deserted the Red Army. Kremlin forces also took over several Communist Party buildings.

After failing Friday to get employees of the prosecutor's office in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius to accept a new chief appointed by Moscow, Soviet officials sent soldiers to occupy the office.

Efforts to disarm the population and halt a Lithuanian campaign to sign up volunteers for duty as border guards were less effective.

It is just those kinds of disputes the Estonians say they want to avoid.

In its declaration Friday, the Estonian Parliament said full independence would be established only after Estonia creates its own institutions and works out how to divide property between the republic and the Soviet Union.

The length of the transition period is to be set this week.

Compared with Lithuania's rush for political high ground, Estonia seems unconcerned about the possibility of Gorbachev slamming the door before it can escape the Soviet Union.

The republic's leaders say there is no point in declaring independence because Estonia has been independent — though occupied — all along.

Official Soviet communications about Estonia's future seem to carry an air of resignation. Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said the "broad aspiration to restore Estonian statehood is in evidence" and that political parties that want to pursue it appear to have the upper hand.

Ethnic Lithuanians comprise about 80 per cent of their republic's 3.8 million people. By contrast, ethnic Estonians make up just 60 per cent of their republic's 1.6 million people and must thus move more cautiously. They lack the two-thirds majority needed for independence if it were put to a referendum.

The population split also has given non-Estonians a greater share of the Supreme Soviet's 105 seats. But as Friday's 75-0 vote showed, they do not have enough to stop the legislature from moving toward independence.

Pravda's commentary Saturday praised Estonian Communist Party leader Vaino Vyalays, an old chum of Gorbachev from the Komsomol Communist Youth League, for keeping Estonia under control.

Vyalays, it said, is a "man with great political experience, a professional diplomat, who is familiar with the fine art of compromise, thanks to which in the last year and a half the republic has managed to smooth over many difficult problems."

Letters to the editor

Evening of despair

SIR: When the Pakistani community in Kuwait met in the Sheraton Hotel Ballroom on Sunday (March 24) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Pakistan Resolution Day under the auspices of Approb (Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen), it was anticipated to be an evening of delight, an occasion to demonstrate a sense of intellectual and political maturity, an event of warm social interaction spiced with commendable understanding of the contemporary Pakistani social and political phenomena. One had wished to listen to some new things, new ideas, and above all, to a display that the fluidity of the ever-changing scenarios in Pakistani political and social spectrum were being comprehended.

Instead, it turned out to be a total disaster: an evening of absolute discontent; an ostentatious display of meaningless form with a complete lack of content. It seemed as if a group of people had just had a bad course in image-building techniques and consequently had flawed in its presentation. It was an inexcusable demonstration of pretence to serve the community. The "egos" of the organisers had interfered with what they had intended to do originally. It was not a "seminar" in any meaning of the word; it turned out to be a self-projection of some organisers in a rather insufficiently sophisticated manner.

The seminar was flawed in every aspect one could imagine: it flawed in ideas, concepts, language, presentation, and above all in the less than appropriate intellectual hospitality offered to the chief guest and to the invited audience.

There was truly no interaction between the chief guest and the invitees, no provision made for a desirable question-answer session, and the proceedings seemed like an unacceptable exercise in the control of rigid ideas and planned indoctrination. There was no free flow of ideas, as is the purpose of every seminar, and the audience was subjected to several unscholarly, redundant personal views. The value judgements made, the emotions expressed, the things said and heard were all one sad reminder of a less than meritorious attempt to do things in their proper perspective.

One element stood out more than the others. The person who introduced speakers to the audience contributed exceptional disaster to the seminar. Mild exaggerations about speakers is one thing, outright flattery and blandishing compliments is quite another matter. The most disagreeable element in the seminar was that

modest, ordinary people were introduced in a manner blown all out of proportion.

Unfortunately, it reflected the main gist of the psychological motivations of the organisers. Based on what was so obviously observable, with no intention to hurt the feelings of the organisers, and with due apologies offered as appropriate, this observation has to be made: What was seen and heard was not complimentary to a healthy and versatile psyche of a democratic people. Rhetorical excesses aimed at personalities reflect a psychological deprivation conceived out of fear to deal with things and subjects as they are. This practice is aimed at covering up reality as it is. It is a sad omen for an organisation which in fact wishes to play a major constructive role in the life of a community.

Dr Haider Mehdi,
Shuwaikh.

Target of ridicule

SIR: Bangladesh has been a target of ridicule. In 1947, Sir Frederick Burrough, Bengal's last British governor predicted that this land of Tagore will turn into the greatest rural slum in history. Henry Kissinger dehumanised Bangladesh by calling it an "irrational basket case".

Recently, World Bank president, Barber Conable, visited Dhaka, his first visit to Bangladesh to improve macro-economic management and expressed his concern over the myriad problems facing the poverty-stricken country. He declared that Bangladesh must find a balance between priorities and utilities in planning socioeconomic development and improving the quality of life for its people. His four days' trip ended with a strong dose of sarcasm and cynical remarks which reminded me of the cruel jokes made by the international community as if the world owed Bangladesh a living.

The reduction of foreign exchange reserves, balance of payment problems, existence of subsidies, widespread poverty, high rate population growth, inflationary trends, public sector inefficiency, and efficiency of the tax system are all under severe criticism from the officials of the World Bank accusing Dhaka of failing in fulfillment of certain lending conditions.

Enough is enough — Bangladesh does not need dehumanisation and cruel jokes, neither sermons nor strong doses of sarcasm. What it needs is a horde of investors, management planners and sincere expertise

advice coupled with generous aid.

It is not the fault of Bangladeshis when natural disasters lash out at their sea coasts killing thousands. Not very long ago Bangladesh was the bread basket of the region.

Bangladesh is on the verge of rebounding and this country is well on the way of development. At this critical time, the withholding of funds of \$30 million cannot be condoned. The structural adjustment programme whereby the Bangladesh government has been asked to wipe out subsidies and relax imports policy is the major cause of reduction of the foreign exchange reserves. Liberal import policies have resulted into increase of imports by 42 per cent in the past seven months, compared to the same period a year ago. The structural adjustment programme is seeking the poor and encouraging the rich. The over-invoicing by the rich, as a result of liberal import policies, has been the cause of plummeting foreign exchange reserves.

A pragmatic approach is required if any help is to be made to the Third World. To improve its economy, Bangladesh has to seek remedies beyond the defective economic nostrums of structural developments as proposed by World Bank and IMF.

It is not enough for Bangladesh to meet IMF money growth target and introduce a few free-market mechanisms, they must make profound cultural, political and social changes. This means literacy so that technologies can be absorbed, curbing corruption, limiting population growth and a gradual return to pluralistic society.

Iqbal Latif,
Kuwait.

Filipino digest

SIR: I'm very much happy and thankful that you really appreciate and love Filipinos cause we have now a place in newspaper as "Filipino digest".

Wow, "ganda talaga" — I hope it will go on and on for years.

My "kababayan" read always Arab Times, so that we know what's happening around the world especially to our country — Philippines.

Violy,
Fahaeel.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Philippine clergy
divided over
peace drive

BACOLOD, Philippines. (Reuters): The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe may have undermined the ideological base of one of Asia's longest-running communist insurgencies in the Philippines.

But how to end the bloodshed is posing political and doctrinal problems for the Roman Catholic Church of the central island of Negros, the country's primary sugar-growing region.

Activist clerics led by the former bishop of Bacolod, Antonio Fortich, are spearheading a drive to set up "zones of peace" in Negros, long the centre of a bitter struggle between communist guerrillas and the military.

Mix But Camilo Gregorio, new bishop in the sugar capital of the Philippines, is less keen to mix religion and politics in a struggle that resulted in the church championing the poor against rich landlords and the military.

"The church is not just for the materially poor," he said in an interview. "I want the church for everybody ... in doing so I took the risk of being branded pro-rich," he declared.

Armed Forces chief Gen Renato de Villa, who visited Negros troops last month, says the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe has left Philippine communists confused and ideologically beleaguered.

The Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, agrees. "With the failure of communism in Eastern Europe, I think they are becoming weaker and weaker every day," he declared.

Negros Occidental Governor Daniel Lacson said the guerrillas had lost their popular appeal. "I think the time that the communist New People's Army is finished is close unless they shift (from violent) to a political platform," he said.

"But we have to address their catharsis," he added.

Overall, the military says it has cut the strength of the New People's Army (NPA) across the Philippines from a high of 25,000 in mid-1988 to around 19,000 at the end of last year.

Fortich believes his "zones of peace" idea can have a catalytic effect and launched the first peace zone in February in a small former rebel-dominated area in southwest Negros after some 300 clerics and activists went on a "peace caravan" around the island.

"Peace zones" Combatants are asked to stay out of the "peace zone".

The military, accused of displacing thousands of villagers in their campaign to wipe out the guerrillas, are staunchly opposed to the "zone of peace" campaign, saying the proposed zones just provide a sanctuary for rebels on the run.

The sugar landlords, who often maintain their own private security forces to protect their land against the guerrillas, also favour a tough approach against the insurgents, who tax areas they control and have instituted their own land distribution programmes for the poor.

Because of this possible support for a rightist coup attempt against President Corason Aquino last December, the military is now trying to disarm the private armies.

Fortich, bishop of 22 years until he retired in the middle of last year, is a vociferous critic of human rights abuses and a fierce campaigner for peace in Negros, a region of stark contrasts between the still largely feudal land owners and cane-cutters often paid below the three dollar minimum daily wage.

Now living in retirement in Bacolod, he turned the highly-influential Roman Catholic church in Negros into a bastion of social conscience, putting him directly at odds with the military and the major land owners.

"Things were a little out of focus, with over-emphasis on certain, perhaps legitimate concerns," said Gregorio, a more conservative figure from the central Luzon province of Nueva Ecija, who sees the clerical activism as misplaced.

Church

He said he wants to get the church back to more directly spiritual concerns, and to emphasise reconciliation, instead of being open to criticism from the right that the church in Negros had become a mouthpiece of the left.

"I'm very careful that the church is not being manipulated ... (before) it seemed that way. The church must be wiser and more circumspect," he said.

The Philippines is Asia's only Catholic country, with more than 85 per cent of the nation's 60 million people members of the church. At least half of the population lives in extreme poverty, an ideal breeding ground for the insurgents who have been fighting for change for more than two decades.

During the martial law rule of the late president Ferdinand Marcos, many radical priests sided with the communist underground.

Since Aquino was swept to power in a church-backed popular revolt against Marcos in 1986, Cardinal Sin and a vast majority of the bishops have stood firmly, if critically, behind her.

But Col Jose Maria Solonillo, commander of a military task force in Negros Occidental, says at least three former priests are still running guerrilla groups in Negros.

QUOTE ME

"In my opinion, pluralism is better than a one-party system, but it should be based on Yemeni people's beliefs, which are mainly Islam. The Yemeni people in the city and the countryside are all from tribes. All of them stick to their traditions and yet back the Yemeni state. There is no contradiction between tribalism and the state."

— Chief of the Hashem tribe in Yemen.

"For every Colombian handed over to the United States we will place a bomb of 5,000 kg of dynamite in the capital of the republic."

— Colombian drug cartels threatening the Colombian government over extradition to the US of drug traffickers.

"These young people came to this great city of ours seeking hope and opportunity, and now they leave like this. The bodies lying here before us say we've got to do more. We've got to do more to make sure this doesn't happen again."

New York City deputy mayor Bill Lynch at a memorial service of 50 of the 87 slain in a social club in New York.

"Vietnam is not a domino of Eastern Europe. We have to analyse what is going on there and if there is something good we will take it. But we must fill the stomachs of our people first."

— Vice-secretary-general of the Vietnamese Journalists' Association.

Aged, bearded rabbis: Israel's new political power brokers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 2. (AP) — A more unlikely group of back-room political bosses would be hard to find: the rabbi of Belz, the rabbi of Gur and the venerable Litvak, 93-year-old rabbi Eliezer Menachem Schach.

But in Israel's tangled political system, these are among the leaders of the Haredim, or ultra-orthodox Jews, who now have the power to decide who will lead the country's next government.

The three religious parties hold a crucial 13 seats in the 120-member parliament. They can spell success or failure to labour party leader Shimon Peres, who must draw backers from

more than one religious party to get the 61 votes he needs to form a new coalition.

Israel is a Jewish nation, but the emergence of bearded, mostly aged rabbis as political kingmakers appears to be the answer to no one's prayers.

Many Israelis, who are overwhelmingly secular and more likely to spend Saturdays at the Tel Aviv beach than in synagogue, were outraged at a televised speech by Schach, who leads two of the ultra-orthodox parties.

Schach is allied with Degel Hatorah (Torah Flag) Party, one of whose leaders is rabbi Dov Rokach, who has the title of rabbi of Belz in the Ukraine.

A leader of the third party, Agudat Israel, is rabbi Simh Alter, who lives in Israel but has the title rabbi of Gur, in the Ukraine.

Religious party leaders had boasted for a week that Schach's speech would be a political bombshell that would break the 60-60 parliamentary tie between Labour and the right-wing Likud bloc of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

But the speech may have backfired. The white-bearded rabbi, wearing the black hat of religious Jews, wagging his finger and lectured Israel for ignoring Jewish traditions.

The biggest outrage came when

Schach criticized the Kibbutzim for raising non-kosher pigs and rabbis and forgetting the Jewish traditions that have kept Jews together for 2,000 years. "If there is a war, with what will they fight?" he asked.

The Kibbutzim, or collective farms, were in the forefront of settling Israel and fighting in the country's wars against the Arabs.

By contrast, many of the Haredim are non-Zionist — meaning they do not accept the state of Israel — and their children often avoid army service, studying into their late 20s or early 30s in Yeshivas, or religious seminaries.

Yossi Sarid, head of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement, said: "I ask if there is somebody among us who in the next war will do without the boys from the Kibbutz and instead send the Yeshiva students?"

Former army chief of staff Raphael Eitan said, "I propose to whoever wants to look at the rabbis in the Kibbutzim that they also look at the cemeteries and count there how many Kibbutzniks were killed in the wars."

Schach criticized the Labour Party for its "detachment" from Jewish tradition, but he included the rival Likud in "all the others... that have no link to Judaism."

Because Schach's speech contained no clear endorsement, politicians on both sides are continuing to woo the ultra-orthodox parties.

The irony of all this is that Schach ought to be the natural ally of the dovish Labour.

In his televised speech, the rabbi spoke of his willingness to give up the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip if it brought peace — a view shared by Labour but vehemently opposed by the right-wing Likud.

It also was one of Schach's allies, rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who brought down Shamir's Likud-Labour coalition March 15. Yosef withdrew back-

ing when Shamir refused compromises aimed at starting peace talks with Palestinians.

Amnon Levy, who writes on the ultra-orthodox for the Hebrew daily Hadashot, judged that Schach did so because he feared the ultra-orthodox parties were stepping beyond their role in politics, which is to represent the interest of their own people.

Schach did not want the Haredim, who are at the periphery of Israeli society and already suspect for their non-Zionist beliefs, to invite reprisals by interfering in the choice of Israel's leader, Levy said.

No breakthrough in Israel's stalemate

Call to reform electoral system

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 2. (UPI) — Calls for reform to Israel's electoral system grew yesterday while the country's two major political parties assessed their chances of leading the next government and ending the latest political stalemate.

Speculation throughout Israeli newspapers provided a variety of scenarios yesterday on whether Labour Party leader Shimon Peres would fulfill a presidential mandate to form a governing coalition or fall short.

President Chaim Herzog may extend Peres' initial 21-day period to form a government after it expires early next week, or he may select another member of Knesset he believes has a better chance. Senior Labour Party sources also told Israeli newspapers, including the Jerusalem Post, that the party might demand Peres be replaced with Yitzhak Rabin, defence minister until the Likud-Labour coalition folded last month and one of the architects of Israel's peace initiative.

Israel's 120-member parliament, the Knesset, is considered equally divided between support for Peres and his Labour Party to form a government and for attempts by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Likud to block those efforts.

Part of the coalition building negotiations, which have been centered on trying to gain sup-

port from a five-member break-away Likud faction or urge Shamir backers to abstain from the vote confirming a new government.

"These negotiations are very difficult," said Labour Knesset member Ya'acov Tsur. "Shimon Peres and the Labour Party have the necessary time in the coming week to realise the process that was opened with the fall of the government."

"It is definitely still early to say that there is no chance to succeed or that one should not be optimistic," Tsur said. "The party is completely united, and I hope that we will soon see a government."

The government formation is complicated by the Knesset's five-week recess for the Jewish holiday of Passover. The Knesset, which must approve a new government, is scheduled to reconvene May 6.

Likud ministers met yesterday to discuss their party's attempts to block Peres' efforts and keep any members of its front from defecting to a Labour-led coalition. Labour officials also were scheduled to meet to assess their situation.

While government negotiations continued, three Israelis camped outside the Knesset maintained a hunger strike begun last week and forged ahead with a grassroots campaign to change Israel's electoral

system. The hunger strike is one of several attempts to force reform, such as the direct election of a prime minister rather than the current system of coalition building.

"As people see how the system of government in Israel ceases to function, to operate, is unable to reach decisions... ignoring the citizens of the country, all of it creates a substantial rage within the people which we hope can be channelled to pressure the government officials," said Uriel Reichman, dean of Tel Aviv University's law school and a leader in the electoral reform movement.

Meanwhile, Likud party has accused Peres of acting like a thief in the night in his hunt for defectors to form a government backing peace talks with Palestinians.

To succeed Shamir, Peres needs the endorsement of only one legislator now supporting the Likud leader in the deadlocked parliament.

"The problem is to find the 61st to break this tie," Labour Party chairman Micha Harish told reporters. "In my opinion there is a chance."

He said Labour hoped to woo a five-member Likud offshoot led by Economics Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. But Mordechai, a hardliner disenchanted by Shamir's policies, would be an unlikely Labour ally.



Rush for gas

An old woman and her son in Christian Beirut take advantage of a lull in fighting in the battles between troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces.

Mediation team comes under sniper fire

Big fuel tank set ablaze

BEIRUT, April 2. (Reuters) — Christian militia gunners shelled and set ablaze a big fuel tank in an army-held area of east Beirut, triggering one of the largest fires in two months of inter-Christian warfare.

The "thunder" of exploding shells rocked the Lebanese capital as General Michel Aoun's troops and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) pounded each other's positions with tank, heavy artillery, and rocket fire.

Security sources said the fighting died down after two hours, leaving five dead, including three LF militiamen. Eight people were wounded, the sources said.

Witnesses said LF gunners hit a diesel tank in the army-controlled area of Antelias, east of Beirut, setting it on fire and sending flames shooting hundreds of feet into the night sky.

A plume of thick black smoke swelled over much of battered east Beirut, blocking out the moon. Residents said the acrid smell of diesel filled the air and fumes kept many people indoors as far as eight km (five miles) from the scene of the explosion.

The fire was the biggest since the first two weeks of fighting when shells set ablaze fuel tanks in Lebanon's largest oil storage depots in the nearby LF-held Dora district.

Security sources said the large tank, which supplied Aoun's tanks and vehicles, was only filled last week by a tanker which risked coming close to shore and discharged its cargo through floating pipes.

Both the LF and Aoun's command blamed each other for the latest bombardments which shattered a relatively calm Sunday after two days of the heaviest fighting in nearly a month.

Shells rained down at the rate of four a minute, witnesses said. Scores of shells poured within 500 metres (yards) of the Golden Beach makeshift port where Aoun's small navy is based.

A three-man mediation team, shuttling between Aoun and LF militia chief Samir Geagea trying to find a lasting settlement, came under sniper fire in the army-held area of Badara but no one was hurt, security sources said.

The inter-Christian war entered its third month yesterday with nearly 900 dead and 3,000 wounded in the ruins of east Beirut. The battles for the control of the Christian enclave broke out on January 31 when Aoun ordered the LF to disband.

Western diplomats tried to mediate between the rivals but said they found the Gulf between them too wide.

"The biggest lie in Lebanon on April Fool's Day is that there will be a final ceasefire and peace soon," said Shaker Abou Sleiman, a mediator between Aoun and Geagea.

"We don't want people to live in fantasy. No one cares about us... not a foreign state nor a Catholic state, nobody at all cares. Our small mediation committee is the only party searching for peace, it is the only thing we have," he said.

Kurdish rebel leader for truce with Turkey

ANKARA, April 2. (Reuters) — The leader of Turkey's separatist Kurdish rebels was quoted yesterday as calling for a ceasefire and talks with Ankara to end the conflict which has killed more than 2,000 people since mid-1984.

"Let us declare a ceasefire and negotiate," Hurriyet newspaper quoted Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), as saying.

Some 56 people were reported killed in southeast Turkey in March alone, compared with 16 in the first quarter of last year.

"This is a crazy special warfare... In 1990 there will be greater bloodshed but I am not responsible for it. We shall spread terror to all over Turkey," Ocalan was quoted as saying.

The mass-circulation paper said he was interviewed at a PKK training camp in Lebanon's Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Ocalan, widely known as Apo, meaning father in Kurdish, was pictured in battle fatigues holding a Kalashnikov rifle and surrounded by armed young men and women.

President Turgut Ozal and political leaders are due to meet today to discuss new measures to counter the unprecedented upsurge in violence in the PKK independence campaign.

Official policy says the country's estimated 10 million Kurdish-speakers, about one fifth of the population, have no special minority rights but are Turkish citizens.

Growing popular and political sentiment favours relaxation of harsh restrictions on education, music and publications in Kurdish in the economically backward region. Security sources say the PKK draws recruits there from the jobless masses.

Rebels killed a Turkish soldier and fired rockets at a police headquarters in the southeast on Saturday night, security sources said.

No love or charity in Beirut

15 years of vicious civil war

BEIRUT, April 2. (Reuters) — Slogans hung by a Muslim charity on lamp-posts among the rubble of West Beirut streets proclaimed: "Love your fellow man."

The slogans, bright and cheery in daylight, seem out of place in a city that sees little evidence of love or charity after almost 15 years of vicious civil war.

The lamp-posts are redundant. Beirut is plunged into blackness every night. It has been without electricity and water since fighting in January knocked out its main power station and cut off water supplies.

Returning after 10 years to a city that used to be the playground and intellectual capital of the Middle East was a harrowing experience.

Hardly a building has escaped the bombers and snipers. Many a handsome Italian-style villa lies in ruins. Others are disfigured by layers of protective sandbags and thick steel shutters.

Filth is everywhere. Windows are broken, some covered with makeshift cardboard.

The streets are dotted with burnt out shells of once thriving hotels and luxury apartment buildings.

Washing hangs from gaping holes in the sides of buildings that have been hit by rockets and are now often taken over by homeless refugees.

The din of private generators installed on apartment balconies to secure a few hours of electricity a day is deafening. The whole city appears to be constan-

tly shaking. "It's like living in a cabin next to the engine room of an ancient steamship," one resident said. "I can't sleep."

The stench of diesel fuel is overpowering, although many say they no longer notice it.

But the biggest fear is about personal safety, despite Lebanese or Syrian checkpoints that block your way every few hundred metres (yards), adding to the congestion of the already chaotic traffic.

Guards would have to stand every few metres in every street for Beirutis to regain their sense of security.

At night, driving in the darkened streets is eerie.

Even during the day, relatives and friends start worrying that you may have come to some harm if you are five minutes late. They are often unable to check as most telephones are dead.

In one incident, a resident left his apartment on a side street as the city was emptying at dusk to visit a brother who lived a few yards away across a normally busy road.

As he stepped off the pavement, an unmarked car pulled up ahead. Two armed men in civilian clothes bundled him into the back seat as the car sped away.

"Why didn't you stop at the checkpoint," said one. There was no checkpoint. The men said they were "security," without identifying themselves any further.

They asked him to empty his pockets "in order to confirm

your identity" and were indignant when they found he had only 2,000 Lebanese pounds (\$4). They looked at his watch but quickly saw that it was not worth much.

They pushed him out in another part of town after 30 horrible minutes with a warning of "don't do it again."

He was one of the lucky ones. He returned home shaking and convinced he would not have stayed alive if he had carried anything valuable. They may not have cared to leave a witness behind.

The latest inter-Christian war that killed more than 800 people in what many see as senseless fighting among brothers and cousins appears to have finally shattered many hopes that an end to the misery may be in sight.

The rich who remain have second homes elsewhere and return when things are relatively quiet. Others who can afford it take an occasional trip aboard to relieve the strain.

Of those who have doggedly stayed behind trying to eke out a difficult existence since civil war broke out in April 1975 many would now like to emigrate.

The number wanting to leave since a major resurgence of fighting a year ago has been put at 400,000 out of a population of three million.

Beirut airport is packed with departing families — the fortunate ones who have been able to obtain visas to foreign countries increasingly closing their doors to Lebanese.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Ethiopia, rebels in peace talks: An Ethiopian government team and leaders of four small Eritrean rebel factions are holding peace talks in Sana'a aimed at ending a nearly three decades old independence dispute over the northern province of Eritrea.

But the absence from the talks of the main guerrilla group fighting for independence in Eritrea could prove a major stumbling block. (Reuters)

Indian envoy meets Assad: Syrian President Hafez Al Assad received secretary general of the Indian Foreign Ministry Mokund Dobi, currently visiting the country.

The Indian official conveyed a message from Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh to President Assad including renewal of an earlier invitation to visit India, official sources said. (Kuna)

Held for selling EC passports: A Belgian woman and a Lebanese man were jailed in Cyprus on charges of selling forged European Community passports, a police spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman said Katrine Devos, 24, a tour operator from Belgium, and Obaid Osama, 30, a journalist from Lebanon, were arrested after allegedly selling two EC passports for \$2,000 to another Lebanese man. (AP)

Tenders for Egypt nuclear reactor: Egypt was studying tenders for the construction of a 20 megawatt experimental nuclear reactor, and one of the tenders came from Argentina, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported yesterday.

Mena quoted the head of Egypt's Atomic Energy Authority Fawzi Hamad as saying Cairo was planning to construct a second experimental nuclear reactor but no decision had yet been made on which tender would be accepted. (AP)

Sudan to accept US move: A US government proposal to end the seven-year civil war in Sudan was "acceptable" to the country's Islamic military leadership, a daily newspaper said yesterday.

The US peace initiative introduced by Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Herman Cohen aimed at "bringing the viewpoints of the feuding parties closer," the Al Sudan Al Hadeeth daily said.

Col. Mohamed Alamin Khalifa, a member of the Ruling Revolution Command Council who already has led two unsuccessful rounds of peace talks with Sudanese People's Liberation Army rebels, told the newspaper the US plan was "acceptable." (AP)

Afghan rebels down copters: Rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government shot down two helicopter gunships in Kandahar province, killing seven servicemen on board, rebel sources said yesterday.

They said the helicopters were brought down by anti-aircraft missiles on Friday in Daman district, east of the provincial capital Kandahar. (Reuters)

Algerian troupe calls off play: An Algerian theatre company cancelled a play on Thursday after the author received death threats from a previously unknown group calling itself the Warriors of God, the Algerian newspaper Al Mesaa said yesterday.

The audience had been seated for a performance of "Faaou" by playwright Merzak Boudjedjia when the actors decided against appearing, it said.

Boudjedjia had received a letter saying he was risking his life if the play was performed. "We do not want communists in our country or in the land of God," the letter added. (Reuters)

Iranian speaker calls for death penalty against 'economic terrorists'

NICOSIA, April 2. (AP) — Iran's radical Parliament speaker called for tougher action against "economic terrorists" yesterday in a swelling campaign against rampant corruption and said the house was prepared to legislate the death sentence for hoarders.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Mehdi Karrubi as saying: "Unfortunately there has been no determined confrontation by the government against economic terrorists."

The official Islamic Republic News Agency, also monitored in Cyprus, quoted him as saying: "Those who are sucking the

nation's blood should be decisively dealt with."

He was addressing tens of thousands of Iranians the official media said gathered in Tehran's Imam Hussein Square, one of the city's main squares, to mark the 11th anniversary of a referendum in which the nation voted overwhelmingly for an Islamic government.

Karrubi said that the country still faces "many difficulties" following the August 1988 ceasefire in the eight-year war with Iraq.

While "the people are sacrificing for the goals and values of the revolution, some

are hoarding foodstuffs and other essential needs of the people," he declared.

Karrubi joined a growing chorus of Iranian leaders and newspapers demanding a crackdown on hoarders, black marketers and corrupt officials, fueling popular resentment at continued hardship.

Despite the end of the war, Iran is plagued with an annual inflation rate officially pegged at 25 per cent but unofficially believed to be four times that.

There are widespread shortages. Prices have far outstripped wages, factories are running at about 40 per cent of capacity,

although that is believed to be improving.

The demands by the radicals were widely seen as part of a campaign of opposition to the economic and political policies of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists.

He seeks improved relations with the West to secure badly needed investment and advanced technology for post-war reconstruction and a major drive to revitalise Iran's battered economy.

The anti-Western radicals consider this a betrayal of the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini, who died of cancer last June.

/ARIETY



Singer Hou Dejian defected from Taiwan to mainland China seven years ago; now the communists ban his music.

Hou: lone seeker of democratic reform

By James L. Tyson,

BEIJING: Music doesn't escape the sound room of songwriter and dissident Hou Dejian these days, but within the muffled walls, Hou says he is staging China's most explosive form of activism. Hou doesn't use a guitar, keyboard, and mixer, unlike in concerts where he chided the government for six years. The state banned his records and performances after it quashed the student-led democracy movement last June.

Rather, Hou is leading a mute, solitary rebellion that he says has more latent power than his incendiary lyrics and even the exuberant protests that swept through Beijing boulevards and into Tiananmen Square last spring.

Hou is trying to exemplify for Chinese the resolute individualism and strong sense of civic duty that he says is crucial to democratic reform but lacking in China. He is speaking out.

"The Chinese people don't have individuality, they have too much of a collective outlook, but what is of fundamental importance for China's democracy movement is education on how to be an individual citizen," Hou

says, sitting in his sound room with his electric guitar by his side.

"Chinese usually are disoriented when they're alone, they get lost when they're alone, and they can't find a proper attitude. So I must be an example to everybody," he says, his words hushed by the sound-absorbing, carpeted walls.

The loneliness of Hou's campaign is a token of how the communist leadership has crushed organized dissent. Last spring, Hou chose raucous, mass demonstrations rather than quiet solitude as his tactic, and Tiananmen Square rather than philosophy as his field of conflict.

Hou and three friends started a hunger strike on June 2 in the square, lifting the spirits of thousands of protesting students. Before two days had passed, however, the Army shot its way into Beijing. Hou helped negotiate the flight of hundreds of students from the battalions of tanks and combat troops storming the square, he says.

Two days after the assault on Tiananmen, Hou took refuge in the Australian embassy after he learned that one of his fellow hunger strikers had been arrested. He remained in the embassy for more than two months, leaving only after the

government guaranteed he wouldn't be jailed, he says.

Back in public, Hou immediately said in widely publicized official interviews that he hadn't seen any protesters killed in Tiananmen Square. The statements bolstered the government's claim: that troops took the plaza peacefully. Hou was seen by many Chinese activists as a sell-out.

Hou denies that he fled to stay out of jail. He doesn't argue with witnesses who say that protesters were killed in the square but says he has merely felt compelled to tell things as he saw them.

"If you're bitten by a mad dog, you shouldn't bite the dog back and you shouldn't tell others that the mad dog was an enormous one if it wasn't," Hou says.

Little else but Hou's account of the Beijing massacre should satisfy the state's propagandists.

"If (senior leader) Deng (Xiaoping) is determined not to learn from the experience of Ceausescu, then we must be the Romanians," he says, pushing his black-rimmed glasses up the bridge of his nose.

Hou says the inflexibility and near-

paranoia of China's leadership offers scant hope of peaceful political change.

"The will and determination of Chinese students, workers, and citizens for democracy can't be resisted; it's unstoppable," Hou says.

"It's now up to the leadership to decide whether progressive change will become peacefully or not."

Hou makes such barbed statements shielded by his popularity and status as an overseas Chinese from Taiwan. Seven years ago, during a concert tour, he netted hostile Nationalist officials on Taiwan by defecting to the mainland. China's communist leadership coddled him, allowing him to record and perform virtually without restriction and to have a home in Beijing and Guangzhou.

Now the political tables have turned. His music is freely sold in Taiwan and lambasted as a "bourgeois-liberal weed" on the mainland. Police have told him not to leave Beijing.

Two of his friends from the hunger strike remain in jail. The remaining one, Gao Xin, was released in December, his wrists still scarred from the clasp of handcuffs for 35 days straight. Other leading dissidents have either fled abroad or

joined thousands of protesters behind bars.

Hou acknowledges that his lone stance as a paragon of democratic insight contradicts the notion of democracy as politics by people acting together rather than in isolation.

Yet he says deep reflection written in lyrics in his sound room will bring the sort of epiphany that Chinese must experience if they are to achieve democratic reform. As if pulling a page from French writer Albert Camus, he believes that Chinese must first embrace the ideals of individualism and civic responsibility if they hope to ever build a just, democratic government.

The liberal struggle last spring failed in part because of people's shallow understanding of these essential principles of democracy, he says. Inspired by the students' hunger strike, Chinese took to the streets in mid-May in a wild, headlong rush. The river of singing, banner-waving, chanting, drum-beating, cheering, and cymbal-crashing citizens through central Beijing was as much a cathartic outpouring of emotional freedom as a march for political freedom, he says.

Caviar kings fight for empire control

PARIS. (Reuters): Some lucky people are born with silver spoons in their mouths. In the case of the Petrossian family, those silver spoons were full of best Beluga caviar.

"I was born into caviar," admits Armen Petrossian with a modest shrug of the shoulders. "Doing other things wasn't actually forbidden but let's say it wasn't recommended."

But a heritage most would envy — a world-famous business in the best caviar, smoked salmon and foie gras money can buy, run from a quaint corner shop in central Paris — has gone distinctly sour on the Petrossians.

They have recently been embroiled in a heated and much-publicised battle for control of the business.

In one corner stands Armen Petrossian, chairman of the family business "Saumon Petrossian" and five other family shareholders. In the other stands his cousin Christian, the so-called "king of caviar."

A tussle for power had been in the offing ever since the demise of the firm's two founders, Armenian brothers Melkom and Mouchegh Petrossian. Mouchegh died in 1981 and Melkom died in 1972.

Born in Iran, the brothers studied law and medicine in Moscow, fleeing to France in the 1920s as post-revolution Russia cracked down on the Armenian community.

They brought to Paris their knowledge of how to salt and conserve sturgeon eggs and smoke salmon to preserve its delicate flavour.

The brothers set up France's first "fumerie", where fresh salmon was slowly smoked for the requisite three-and-a-half days, and the wood-paneled shop on Boulevard de la Tour Maubourg was soon supplying top restaurants and hotels with its distinctive blue-bordered tins of caviar.

By retaining preferential links with Russian fisheries, Petrossian is now the world's largest distributor of Russian caviar and enjoys exclusive distribution rights in France and North America.

Last year the business saw turnover of 520 million francs (90 million dollars).

But trouble came to a head in November, when Christian claimed the firm was in danger of losing its reputation for gourmet excellence by selling less glamorous products such as tinned fish and vegetable purées in hypermarkets.

He offered to buy out the other shareholders.

"Christian wanted to turn Petrossian into just one product — caviar," said 40-year-old Armen in an interview.

"But we have always sold these other products and we have no intention of neglecting the high-quality side of our business."

Cousins and siblings promptly turned on 48-year-old Christian and fired him from his position as president of Caviar Petrossian, the caviar branch of the business.

So Christian, who still holds a 17.6 per cent share in the business, called in the Paris commercial court, saying the seven shareholders were unable to agree on strategy and the firm's future was in danger.



Actor David Hasselhoff on the sun-kissed Californian beach for his role as Lieutenant Mitch Buccannon, chief lifeguard in LWT series Baywatch.



Former Knight Rider Michael Knight, actor David Hasselhoff in his new role in Baywatch.

Knight Rider ends up on the beach

Ex-Knight Rider David Hasselhoff's career is going swimmingly after he landed a beefcake part as a Malibu lifeguard. The new series Baywatch, deals with everything from killer waves to the problems of drug and the homeless.

From Frank Durham in Los Angeles

RUGGED actor David Hasselhoff has parked his Knight Rider talking car and is happily spending a lot of his time these days on the sun-kissed Californian beaches.

And every time 28-year-old David dons his shorts, flexes his considerable muscles and soaks up the sun, his bank balance rises like the tide on the Malibu sands. For this is work, not play.

Knight Rider Michael Knight has become Lieutenant Mitch Buccannon, chief lifeguard in a new TV series called Baywatch. The surfing drama is due to come to Britain in the New Year.

In the series, which is doing well in the States, all human life seems to wash on the golden beaches of Santa Monica and Malibu. David told me: "Last year alone 15,000 people were rescued in the waters of southern California."

"On vacation day, like July 4, lifeguards pulled out no less than 60 people. On those beaches, they deal with everything from a very bad drug situation to the problem of the homeless. They look after lost children and deal with injuries."

"These can vary from somebody cutting their foot on a piece of glass to more serious things, like reviving swimmers after they've been caught in a rip tide. These tides pull you out to sea and there is no way you can get back unless you are an experienced swimmer."

"So the lifeguards make a lot of rescues. One of the most dangerous thing that can happen to anybody off the southern Californian beaches is to get caught up in very big waves called shorebreakers."

"These pick you up and then deposit you on the beach like a fly hitting the windshield of a car. This

can lead to a broken neck... which the lifeguards have to deal with."

David, a towering 6ft. 4 ins. in his tanned bare foot, went on hurriedly: "Mind, I'm not saying the beaches are unsafe. Those lifeguards keep them very safe, for they haven't lost anybody in two years. All their rescues have been successful."

He is determined not to let the series become a set of cardboard characters riding to the rescue every week. David explained: "We are now making the 11th episode. At this point, my biggest concentration is making sure that stories are kept at an adult level."

"We try to make it more than a 'rescue of the week'... even though there has to be an element of action about each episode. We keep the stories diversified so that we appeal to a broad audience."

"In Baywatch, I am the central character, and everything revolves around me. After all, I do happen to be lieutenant."

"And we have made this a story about people who just happen to be lifeguards. They do the job at weekends and, on the other days, they have different occupations."

"For example, we have characters who are lawyers and civil servants. So we have plenty of material to work with. The show is doing well, and I'm pretty sure we'll be making nine more episodes."

"So we actors will carry on working together. The fact that we all like each other is pretty amazing. And this kind of comes across on the screen."

And David, whose *Knight Rider* series was cancelled because "of a row over money between the studio and the network," is grateful for his chance to work on the beach. It was as good as a lifeline for him.

Your health

Only surgery needed for some breast cancers

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida, (UPI): UP to 20 per cent of women with breast cancer may not need further treatment beyond surgery, a researcher said.

Dr. Thomas Nealon said women whose cancer tumors fit certain criteria apparently do not need to receive additional treatment such as chemotherapy, radiation or the anti-estrogen drug Tamoxifen.

Nealon said he based his opinion on results of a study of 344 women whose tumors were surgically removed between 1977 and 1986 at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York City.

Among these were 60 women who were believed to have a very low risk of recurrence. Five were treated with radiation and chemotherapy, six with radiation alone and the rest received no drugs or radiation.

Nealon said there has been no recurrence of cancer in 38 of the women. The two whose cancers returned did not benefit from radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Consequently, Nealon concluded that the chance of the cancer returning was "so rare use of adjuvant therapy was not justified," in these women.

In "the two instances of recurrence, the adjuvant therapy did not help," he told a seminar sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Nealon said the women he would treat only with surgery would be those whose tumors were no larger than eight-one hundredths of an inch (two-one hundredths of a cm), had not spread and had no sign of cancer cells in their lymph nodes.

In addition, he said, their tumors could not be highly malignant and would have to be firmly encapsulated by surrounding tissue.

There would also have to be no sign that the cancer had invaded blood or lymphatic vessels, said Nealon, a professor of Surgery at New York University.

He said his studies indicate it is possible to establish the presence or absence of these criteria at the time the surgery takes place.

"This is something that could be done in 99 per cent of the hospitals that do breast cancer surgery," he said.

Nealon said he realized his views fly in the face of recommendations issued two years ago by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which sent a letter to doctors stating that all women — even those at low risk — could benefit from followup chemotherapy.

Nealon said he disagreed with the idea of subjecting very low-risk women to treatments such as

radiation and chemotherapy that can have unpleasant side-effects and health hazards.

There are an estimated 150,000 new cases of breast cancer in the United States each year. Nealon estimates that as many as 30,000 American women annually undergo treatment that is not needed.

Acne drug treatment

A DRUG used to treat acne also may be able to combat pre-cancerous sores in smokers' mouths, a Texas scientist said.

The synthetic Vitamin A derivative sold under the brand name Accutane has been relatively effective in treating test subjects with sores known as oral leukoplakias, Dr. Scott Lippman said.

Oral leukoplakias are lesions that commonly show up in the mouths, lungs, and parts of the upper digestive tracts of people who smoke or chew tobacco. If left untreated, they can become cancerous.

High doses of Accutane followed by months of low doses successfully treated leukoplakias in 60 per cent of 29 people studied, said Lippman, of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

An additional 29 people were treated with beta-carotene, another Vitamin A derivative which had little or no effect, Lippman told an American Cancer Society seminar.

Among the people treated successfully, Accutane cleared up pre-cancerous sores and prevented their reappearance, he said, but emphasized that although the drug seems able to deal with cancer's precursors, there is no evidence so far that it prevents cancer.

In the study, patients were given high doses of Accutane for three months and lower "maintenance" doses for another nine months.

He said most of the lesions responded to the drug within the first three months of treatment.

Although the drug is relatively benign, Lippman said it can cause side effects such as dry mouth and dry eyes.

Most of the men and women in the study were in their 50s and 60s, Lippman said. Because Accutane can cause severe foetal abnormalities, he said, researchers will not use it to treat women of child-bearing age.

Accutane, manufactured by Hoffmann-La Roche of Nutley, New Jersey, is licensed by the Food and Drug Administration to treat cases of severe acne that did not respond to other drugs. That is still its primary use, Lippman said.



Munich creations

East German designers showed their latest creations at the Munich Fashion Fair last week. Here East German models present the evening dresses designed by Rotraut Schimmac.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

CRUSHED ASPIRIN PROVIDES SOME RELIEF

QUESTION: Although I have read a few of yours answer concerning shingles and the pain that can remain after the rash has gone, I don't believe you ever mentioned a new treatment my doctor is trying with me. It consists of using crushed aspirin in a lotion, that I put right on the painful area with quite some relief. Do you know of this treatment? What do you think of it?

ANSWER: The treatment your doctor is now trying with you is quite new, and reports of its use have only just recently appeared in the medical press. This type of pain, called post-herpetic neuralgia, which follows the acute stages of herpes or shingles, occur most frequently in older patients. It always has been difficult to treat. While local application of steroid creams, and more recently a preparation derived from naturally occurring chemical in pepper plants (capsaicin, or brand name Zostrix) have been used with success, some individuals were still left with continuing pain.

In the research for a treatment that could offer relief to these individuals, a new technique recently has been reported by several pain management centres. Two 350-milligram doses of aspirin are crushed to a fine powder and dissolved in some solution or lotion that makes it possible to apply the mixture directly to the painful areas. In one study, chloroform was used as the liquid base, and in another report, Vaseline Intensive Care Lotion was used. The results seemed to indicate that most patients experienced substantial and lasting relief from the tormenting chronic pain that had persisted after the herpes infection.

While these results are certainly encouraging, I must point out that they are still preliminary, and additional large scale studies are needed to fully prove the worth of this technique. However, the use of this treatment technique, with due caution to avoid inhaling the fumes of the chloroform preparation, would seem to offer the possibility of pain relief without posing any undue hazards for most patients.

Question: With all the statistics that appear in television and newspapers about the deaths caused by all the diseases, it's a wonder that anyone makes it to retirement these days. Just to clear up the confusion, and to help me win a wager, could you tell me which disease causes the most deaths in the United States today?

ANSWER: Without doubt, and despite the great progress in fighting the disease, heart disease is still the number one cause of death in the United States today. Statistics show that as many as 1.5 million Americans will fall victim to heart attacks in this year and more than one-third of them will succumb to the affliction. Heart attacks are responsible for about 24 per cent of the deaths recorded in the U.S. in 1987, numbering 513,000 deaths. Other cardiovascular diseases account for another 22 per cent (about 463,000 deaths) just behind cancer with 477,000 deaths.

There has been a drop of more than 40 per cent in coronary artery disease deaths since 1970, probably the result of all the education about the value of healthier lifestyles, and the new and very effective treatments for acute heart attacks. While women are less likely to succumb before menopause, they are twice as likely to die in the first few days after an attack than men, and heart attacks are the number one cause of death for women as well. I hope this wins your bet for you.

Spain prime target of drug traffickers

By Clare Pedrick

MADRID, (WNL) In the southern port of Malaga, days of patient stalking and waiting have finally paid off. Acting on a tip, Spanish police have intercepted a shipment of 109 kilograms (240 pounds) of heroin, one of the biggest seizures ever made in Europe.

Up in the capital of Madrid, police are celebrating another major narcotics coup. A raid on a cocaine laboratory outside the city has netted a shipment of Peruvian blankets and shawls impregnated with cocaine. Drug officials say that if the cocaine had been extracted from the woollens — usually by soaking them in acetone and drying the solution — the yield of 200 to 300 kilos (440 to 660 lbs) would have brought up to \$110 million on the street.

Such victories have done much too boost the morale of Spanish police in the fight against narcotics trafficking. The successes have also highlighted the fact that Spain has become a preferred point of entry for traffickers smuggling drugs from Latin America to Europe.

Heroin and cannabis are present in ever-growing quantities on the Spanish drug market, but the most pressing problem is that of cocaine, currently entering the country at an estimated 166 kilos (365 lbs) per day via land, sea and air. "Spain is now the world's hub for cocaine coming in from South America," said a representative of the US anti-narcotics organization, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). "When the US market became over-saturated and prices started to hit rock

bottom, the business moved over to Europe, and Spain has become the center of it," he added.

For South American drug dealers looking for new markets, cultural and linguistic ties, plus Spain's geographical location and its many miles of unprotected coastline, make the country a natural choice. "Unfortunately, our country has historical links with certain parts of the world," said Francisco Rabago, an official at the Spanish Anti-Drug Unit.

In 1988 Spanish police seized close to 3,500 kilos (about 7,700 lbs) of cocaine, more than the amount seized by all the other European countries combined and six times that of Italy, which is second in the quantity of drugs seized. The 1989 figures are expected to show a decline from the previous year but will be the highest in Europe, officials warn.

Signs

Rabago says that between 80 and 90 per cent of the cocaine entering Spain is sent on to The Netherlands, Britain, France and Switzerland, usually by truck. Even so, domestic consumption is rising rapidly, and drug officials estimate that there are between 50,000 and 100,000 cocaine addicts in Spain. Conservative estimates put the number of heroin addicts at 40,000 in a population of 40 million.

The visible signs of Spain's new problem are everywhere. House burglaries and street crime are on the rise. For example, officials at the US embassy in Madrid say that they receive an average of 20 complaints a week from tourists who have been mugged by drug addicts.

Cocaine circulates freely in the many discotheques that have mushroomed since the death of General Franco. Outside, the capital's Puerta del Sol and Santa Ana areas have become known as meeting places for addicts and for the growing numbers of youngsters who have turned to prostitution to support their habit. In 1989 drug-related deaths in Spain jumped to more than 500, almost double the figure for the previous 12 months.

According to the DEA, the Colombian drug barons started to move into Spain as long ago as 1984. In that year, two of Colombia's most notorious traffickers, Jorge Luis Ochoa and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, paid extended visits to the country. "What were they doing here — vacationing? I doubt it," a DEA official said.

Since then, the Colombian connection has developed rapidly and other big names have arrived. One of them, Ramon Matta Ballesteros, a Honduran thought to be second or third in line to the Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar, made his base in La Coruna, in the northwestern region of Galicia. Last year Ballesteros was extradited to the US to face trafficking charges, but his wife and brother remain in Spain to run what officials believe are money-laundering operations — several luxury-car dealerships and interests in luxury hotels.

"The Colombians came here and saw they could make big bucks," the DEA official explained. "They even have their own lawyers. There are about 500 Colombians in Spanish jails at the moment, 99 per cent of them for drug offenses... Spain was

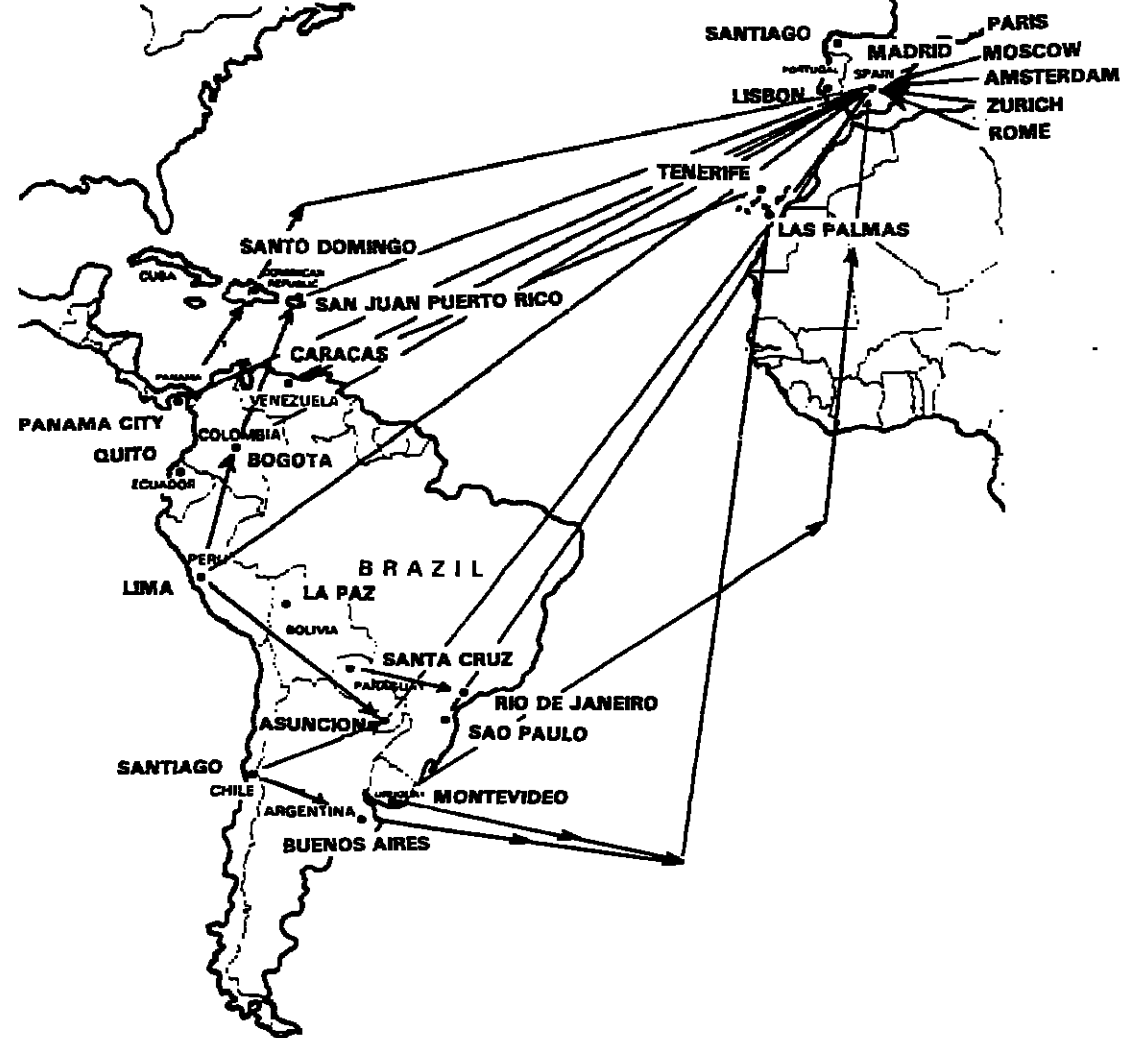
an obvious choice, for reasons of language, because it's easier to mingle and because this is the mother country. I've worked in South America and I know that these people think of coming to Spain as coming home."

Aside from sentimental ties, Spain has other attractions for the drug traffickers. There are 56 flights daily between Spain and the South American continent — a ready-made network for smuggling. The Colombian airline, Avianca, which flies into Madrid's Barajas airport from Bogota three times a week, has long been known as the "Cocaine Express." Other routes used by "mules" — a name given to cocaine couriers — are Lima-Bogota-San Juan-Madrid and Caracas-Madrid.

Security crackdowns at Barajas have led to the drug trade being shifted to other routes and airlines. Cocaine shipments have been entering Spain via the northern city of Barcelona, via the Spanish-owned Canary Islands, through the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, and most recently, through Morocco.

But smuggling by sea accounts for the lion's share of cocaine coming into Spain, police say. The country's long coastline makes detection difficult, especially along the rugged northwestern Galician coast, once notorious for its tobacco smuggling. "We do what we can, but the coast is difficult to patrol," said Rabago of the Spanish Anti-Drug Unit. "The ships often carry as much as 1,500 kilos (3,300 lbs) of cocaine. They anchor off the coast and then smaller boats are sent out to ferry the cargo to shore. It's not easy to catch them."

COCAINE ROUTES TO EUROPE



Gallipoli commemoration

Veterans return to WWI killing field

CHUNUK BAYIR, Turkey, (Reuters): The last time Allied planners considered Gallipoli, it was to prepare a bloody campaign against Turkey in which an estimated 300,000 soldiers died.

Seventy-five years on, as they prepare to mark the World War One campaign, the concerns are of a different kind — although a few problems, mainly inhospitable terrain, span the years.

Political and military leaders from Australia, Britain, France, New Zealand and Turkey, as well as envoys from Canada, India, Pakistan and West Germany, are expected to attend a ceremony to commemorate the campaign on April 25.

"We are facing a potential nightmare. We have a month to sort things out," said an Ankara-based military attaché during a recent reconnaissance of the wind-blown area, dominated by cliffs and hills and with only a few narrow roads or dirt tracks.

He was standing near a monument to New Zealand troops who took the strategic Chunuk Bayir Height overlooking the target — the Dardanelles Waterway — to the east.

Diplomats are concerned with details of organisation, including factors such as the lack of toilet facilities on the sparsely-populated land and the problem of the wind sweeping off the Aegean Sea at the monolithic Cape Helles Monument dedicated to 18,984 British and 1,778 Australian and Indian dead.

Official records said there were 46,000 deaths among British, Dominion and French troops while 86,692 Turks were killed. Unofficial estimates put Turkish deaths at up to 250,000.

Other problems for the diplomats include transporting officials to some of the 31 cemeteries and monuments for the Turkish and Allied dead, providing food from Istanbul, 300 km (190 miles) to the north, and laying on telephones for an army of reporters.

Up to 14 warships from Australia, Britain, France and Turkey, and some 80 Gallipoli veterans, probably making their last pilgrimages to a killing field that has seared the hearts of generations, also have to be co-ordinated.

One military attaché, noting live but decaying bullets in Turkey's Kabatepe Museum where the leaders are likely to have lunch, said: "That is a risk, if ever I saw one."

Plans are being prepared by Turkey with representatives of expected participants at the ceremony, including British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and New Zealand Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves.

Officials said the 24-km (15-mile) long tip of Gallipoli would probably be banned to normal traffic and unauthorised people on April 25.

Picnic baskets

Pearl onion and dried tomato relish

- 2 tablespoons olive or salad oil
- 2 10-ounce containers pearl onions, peeled
- 1 cup red vinegar
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
- 1 cup oil-packed dried tomatoes (1 ounce), thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped parsley

About 1 hour before serving or day ahead

In 3-quart saucepan over medium-high heat, in hot oil, cook onions until golden, stirring often. Add vinegar, tomato paste, sugar, salt, thyme, and 1/4 cup water; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 20 to 25 minutes until onions are tender, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; stir in dried tomatoes and parsley. Serve relish at room temperature or cover and refrigerate to serve cold later. Makes about 2-1/2 cups. About 50 calories per 1/4 cup.

Cappuccino squares

- 1 cup butter or margarine (2 sticks)
- 1 8-ounce package unsweetened chocolate squares (8 1-ounce squares)
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 1 8-ounce can walnuts (2 cups), coarsely chopped
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup instant espresso-coffee powder
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar for garnish

About 2 hours before serving or day ahead:

1. Prepare oven to 350°F. Grease and flour 13" by 9" baking pan. In heavy 4-quart saucepan over low heat, heat

Cook or bake these treats — they travel well and most don't need reheating.....

butter or margarine and chocolate until melted and smooth, stirring often. Remove from heat. With wire whisk or spoon, beat in sugar and eggs until well blended. Stir in walnuts, flour, espresso powder, vanilla, cinnamon, and salt; evenly spread in pan.
2. Bake 45 to 50 minutes until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on wire rack.
3. When cold, cut crosswise into 6 strips, then cut each strip into 6 pieces. Sprinkle half of each square with confectioners' sugar. Store in single layer in tightly covered container. Makes 2 dozen. About 345 calories each.

Baked Chicken and Prunes

- 2 3-pound broiler-fryers, cut up
- 3 medium-sized carrots, cut into bite-sized chunks
- 1 12-ounce package pitted prunes
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano leaves
- 1 1/2 teaspoon pepper

About 1 1/2 hours before serving or day ahead:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. In large open roasting pan, arrange chicken pieces, skin-side up; place carrots and prunes around chicken.
2. In small bowl, mix brown sugar, lemon juice, white vinegar, salt, flour, oregano, and pepper until blended; pour over chicken. Bake 50 to 60 minutes, basting chicken frequently with liquid in pan, until chicken is fork-tender.
3. Arrange chicken, carrots, and prunes on large platter or in bowl. Skim fat from juice in roasting pan; pour pan juices over chicken mixture. Serve warm or cover and refrigerate to

reheat later. Makes 8 main-dish servings. About 335 calories per serving.

Pasta with marinated roast peppers

- 3 large red peppers
- 3 large green peppers
- 3 large yellow peppers
- olive or salad oil
- 1 tablespoon Balsamic or red vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 dried rosemary leaves
- 1 16-ounce package penne or rigati macaroni
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

About 1 hour before serving or early in day:

1. Preheat oven to 450°F. Cut each pepper into 2-inch-wide strips; discard seeds. In jelly-roll pan or shallow roasting pan, toss pepper strips with 2 tablespoons olive or salad oil. Roast peppers 30 minutes or until tender, turning once. Remove pan from oven to wire rack to cool slightly. If you like, peel off skin from pepper strips; reserve oil in pan.
2. In medium bowl, toss pepper strips and reserved oil with vinegar, cracked black pepper, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves, crushed; set aside to marinate until ready to serve.

3. In saucepot, prepare macaroni as label directs; drain. In same saucepot over medium heat, in 3 tablespoons hot olive or salad oil, cook garlic, crushed red pepper, 3/4 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves, crushed, until golden. Return macaroni to saucepot; toss to coat well. Stir in chopped parsley. Arrange macaroni and peppers on large platter and serve at room temperature. Or, cover each separately and refrigerate to serve cold later. Makes 8 accompaniment servings.



Some samples of Jamdani textiles



The weaver at work



Painstaking work

Textiles

Jamdani: a many-splendoured thing

By Mun Mun Ahmad

THE austere Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb was visibly outraged at the brazenness and seeming immodesty of his daughter Jahanara. Everyone in court was fully aware of his views on conservative dress and strictly adhered to them. Yet here was Jahanara clad in something so transparent and gossamer-like that it seemed she had worn nothing at all! While his royal majesty thundered away, the blushing princess stammered that she had worn the mul-mul saree seven times around her body! History has not recorded his majesty's reaction to this!

Indeed the famed Dhaka mul-mul or muslin as it was known in the West was the favourite of emperors and princes, and Aurangzeb for all his ire was quite partial to a turban or tunic fashioned out of the exquisite material.

Texture

For over ten centuries the Dhaka area has been renowned for this fine fabric. So fine its texture that it was said to be woven with the "thread of the winds" and ancient Greek and Roman texts mention the "Gangetic muslins" which were among the most coveted luxury items exported to the cities of the ancient world. Perplus of the Erytreaean Sea, circa 1, AD referred to it as a remarkable cotton product. Chinese, Arab and European travellers — amongst them the famous Ibn Batoutah, all mention this soft and delicate fabric which was so fine that a piece ten yards long and one yard wide would pass through a ring and a hundred metres of the fabric weighed barely 30 grammes and could be accommodated in a small casket the size of a match box. The ancient Egyptians used it to wrap embalmers' mummies.

There were up to ten varieties of muslin — aal-i-rawan, baudankhas, ekkappa, hammam, jamdani, malmal khas etc. The finest product in muslins was jamdani, the loom-embroidered muslin fabric, primarily in geometric patterns.

The origin of the word jamdani is somewhat debatable. The word "jama" in Persian means cloth, "dana" means "but" or floral motif so jamdani could mean cloth with floral motif. It

could also mean a wine carrier (by implication perhaps), referring to the embellishment on a Persian wine goblet.

Mughal officialdom decreed that the weavers had to have their "aurangs" or workshops concentrated in villages around Dhaka city from where their agents supervised the best weavers and totally monopolised their products. A small quantity was allowed to be exported to Europe but this was definitely coarse compared to the material supplied to the Mughal court. Nawab Zafar Ali Khan's yearly tribute to the Emperor Aurangzeb in jamdani alone amounted to 35,000 takas. This would have to be multiplied sixty times to get the present valuation. In 1776 the price of a jamdani went up to £56.

So it was that this specialised handloom product became concentrated in some 12 villages of Roopganj Upazilla about 12 kilometres from Dhaka city, along the banks to the River Sitalkhaya.

Woven from superfine cotton or silk yarn jamdani fabric is embroidered or inlaid on the loom with art silk, gold and silver threads. The method of weaving is akin to tapestry work in which small shuttles of coloured gold or silver threads are passed through the weft. Intricate and requiring infinite patience, a piece of jamdani epitomizes the weaver's excellence, creative skills and instinctive choice of harmonious and balanced combinations.

Weavers

The weavers come from families which have been producing the jamdani fabric for generations. Two weavers sit at the loom which has remained virtually unchanged through the centuries. The master weaver or main "karigar" or craftsman has his apprentice who learns perfection from his master after a considerable period of time. It is fascinating to see the weaver at his work; to see the amazingly swift fingers moving rhythmically and creating a magic web of colours.

In older days the weaver found inspiration in nature and daily life so we find a variety of patterns with names which have an indigenous touch — shapla-phool-lotus, anguralata-grapevine, julita-jasmine buds, bel-pata-leaf of wood apple chandrar-har-moon necklace, harinder, hansa-swan, dhaner sheesh

par-ric border and many others. Over the years the weavers simplified the designs making them more stylised and geometric. Thus geometric forms have become the speciality of "jamdani" designs.

The designs are placed to form a variety of patterns — "butidar" meaning floral motifs spread all over the fabric, "tercha" meaning diagonally striped floral sprays, jhalor or ornamental frill, "loradar" or a design of life size flowers. The design which is breath-taking is "panna hazar" or a "thousand emeralds." Million of tiny flowers are interlaced with gold and silver threads, giving it the visual effect of a glistening field of gold and silver, strewn with gorgeous jewels.

Breakdown

The latter end of the eighteenth century saw the breakdown of the Mughal administration and the East India Company took over Bengal. Their brokers created a virtual monopoly for themselves. In 1787 the Muslim trade was at its peak and the yearly export of cloth was valued at five million rupees. The cheap mill made textiles in the 19th century sounded the death knell for the hand made jamdani cloth. Moreover a levy was imposed on the import of Indian fabrics into Britain with the result that the industry suffered a setback from which it never completely recovered. Some exquisite pieces were the centre of much admiration and interest at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851. Inevitably the legendary muslins of Dhaka became a relic of the past.

Fortunately for posterity the art of jamdani weaving was not entirely lost and was adapted to the changing times. The craftsmen produce the fabric with remarkable accuracy and ease but cannot make the historic muslin as the superfine yarn (about 300 counts) is not available now. Jamdani saris are now made with machine spun yarn, cotton or a cotton and silk combination. Originally the jamdani always had a black, deep indigo blue, grey or off-white background. Today's jamdani is of the most vibrant colourful hues. The reintroduction of natural dyes have also brought in a whole new range of unusual and subtle shades.



A woman wearing a Jamdani sari

VARIETY



Unusual: A rare Harlequin Steiff Skittles sold at a recent toy sale for £10,000.

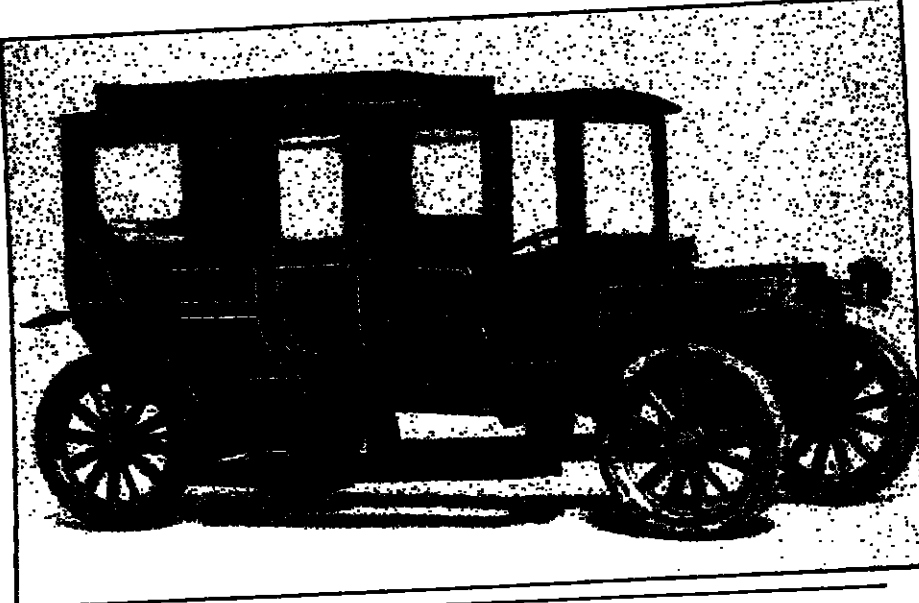


Exquisite: The rare Emile Jumeau Bisque Doll sold for an amazing £3,800.



Beautiful: A German, Mein Liebling Doll sold for \$2,800.

What a doll!.....and only £8,000



They cost just a few pounds when they were new. Now they are old, these toys are fetching prices that are anything but child's play, writes Jane Easterman.

She is made of wood, wears a beautiful silk gown, linen petticoats and has knitted stockings. She even has real auburn hair.

Yet more than 200 years ago she was plaything of the rich — costing just a few pounds.

Now though, antique dolls — especially this rare English toy, dating from the reign of George III — is proving playtime is big money time, too. The doll, whose history is not known, was auctioned for £8,000 when it came under the hammer at auction giant Sotheby's.

Two identical Emile Jumeau Bisque Dolls, with pierced ears and matching ear-rings also proved too expensive for most children's pocket money. Even with flaking paint and four fingers they were bought by a lucky bidder for an amazing £3,800 each.

The old toy sale attracted dozens of collectors. For also among the items for sale were a set of rare skittles, made by the German company Steiff which sold for a knockdown price of £10,000. Their toy-making skills were legendary in the late 19th century and a teddy bear made by them in 1903, called Honey the bear went for more than £2,000.

It certainly won't be a picnic buying other teddy bears either. Most of them are expected to fetch prices in excess of £5,000.

And with one toy car, built in 1902, worth a staggering £10,000, the bidding is set to be far from child's play.

The tinplate car has been in the same family since it was new.

Now, it may be old, but it is twice as valuable.

JUNIOR TIMES

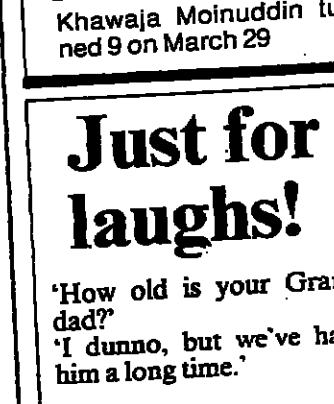
Happy birthday



Rasmi Hussain turned 5 on March 31



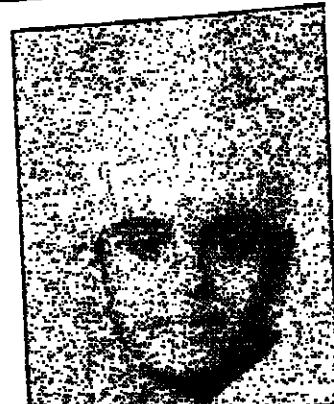
Simon Dornie turns 13 today April 3



Khawaja Moinuddin turned 9 on March 29



Sukal Mondal turns 6 today April 3



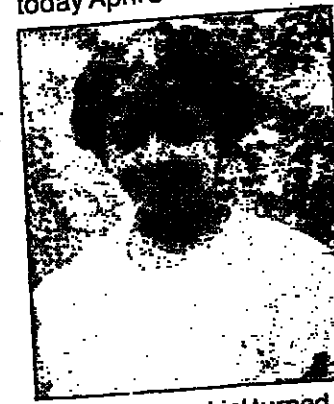
Opender Pal Singh turned 12 on March 31



Shebi Panicker turned 1 on April 1



Rocky Bhazza turns 11 today April 3



Jitsy Jose Plackiel turned 5 on April 2

Just for laughs!

'How old is your Granddad?'

'I dunno, but we've had him a long time.'

'There were fifteen of us kids when I was a youngster.'

'Fifteen! That's a big family.'

'It sure is. There were so many nappies hanging up we had a rainbow in the hall.'

'One day my mum sent my Dad into the garden to cut a cabbage for our dinner. Dad took out his knife, bent down his hand slipped and he cut his throat!'

'Golly! What did your Mum do?'

'Opened up a tin of peas.'

'I'm divorcing my wife for smoking in bed.'

'That doesn't sound all that serious.'

'Oh, she doesn't smoke cigarettes.'

'What does she smoke, then?'

'Bacon.'

'It didn't take long to wind up Granddad's estate. All he left was a cuckoo clock.'

'Will you love me when I'm old and ugly?'

'Darling, of course I do.'

'We never wanted for anything when I was a kid.'

'That's nice.'

'All except my Uncle Colin, that is. He was wanted for burglary.'

'When Mr Maxwell's wife left him he couldn't sleep. She took the bed.'

'Granddad, is it fun being ninety-nine?'

'Certainly it is. If it wasn't ninety-nine I'd be dead.'

ASK holds Annual Sports Day



The Annual Sports Day for Fourth and Fifth graders in the American School was held recently at the Kuwait Sporting Club. The day offered a wide variety of activities for the students as well as teachers and parents.



The Annual Sports Day for Kindergarten through second grade was held recently at the American School (Elementary section). The day offered a wide variety of activities for the students to participate in. Not only were the students involved, but the teachers and parents took part, too.

Brazil moves closer to Chico's goals

Small gains set pace for change

By Stephen Schwartzman and Osmarino Rodrigues

ON Dec 22, 1988, Francisco Alves Mendes Filho — Chico Mendes — was assassinated in the Brazilian Amazon. In death, Chico Mendes became an international symbol of courage and leadership in a global struggle against the destruction of the environment. In life, Chico Mendes was an Amazonian Lech Walesa.

The movement of poor and disenfranchised forest people that Chico led were fighting for defense of the Amazon forest, but also for freedom to organize freely, to participate in public decisions, and for representative government. That the movement continues, and is part of a world-wide struggle for democracy, is as clear in the Brazilian Amazon as in the shipyards of Gdansk.

Whether the enemy is a repressive state with a monopoly on political power, or a local elite that has "all the money, all the guns, and all the power," as a cattle rancher once told Chico, grass-roots organizing is central to building democracy.

The National Council of Rubber Tappers, the national organization Chico and other local union leaders founded, is working to create co-operatives, organize forest communities, and build alliances across the Amazon, Brazil, and the world.

In the last year, rubber tappers in Acre state held more than a dozen demonstrations against deforestation, illegal logging, and the expulsion of forest people from their homes. Many were successful. More unions of rubber tappers and similar forest communities than ever before have joined the National Council. Fifteen extractive reserves — protected areas managed by rubber tappers — are being created across the Amazon.

Because of the work of the council, the Federal Prosecutor's office is bringing criminal charges against rubber barons on the Juruá river for working conditions "analogous to slavery." These are small gains, won with virtually no financial support, in a continental area undergoing a massive transformation. But as Chico maintained, real change must come from the bottom up.

As local efforts to protect the Amazon have increased, so have violence and threats against union leaders and activists. The Amazon needs no Gulag: ruthless local elites and a justice system that can't live up to its name do just as well.

Chico was one of a thousand rural union leaders, Indians, peasants, and their supporters murdered in the interior of Brazil since 1980 because of land conflicts. About half of these killings occurred in the Amazon, an area with less than 10 per cent of Brazil's population.

There have been only 12 trials in these cases since 1964, and three convictions — all of "hired guns."

Since Chico was murdered, two rubber tappers have been assassinated in Acre alone. A third victim was recently found on property owned by relatives of Daryl Alves, the man now facing trial for Chico's murder.

All the leaders of the National Council of Rubber Tappers in Acre have received the numerous death threats. Evidence of the involvement of local landowners and government officials in Chico's assassination exists,



and has been reported, yet no charges have been brought — and the death threats continue. Despite — or perhaps because of — the gains the rubber tappers have made, more deaths are likely.

Why did Chico die? Why are his co-leagues under threat of death, and why do they expect the planners of Chico's assassination to go free? The answer is in the concentration of rural land and political power in the hands of a few. In 1980, 50 per cent of the properties in Brazil occupied 2.5 per cent of the land, while less than 1 per cent of the biggest properties occupied 45 per cent of the land.

Fifteen of the largest 18 properties in Brazil are in the Amazon, and occupy more land than the states of New York, Connecticut, and Maryland together. Many of the largest properties are unproductive cattle ranches, recipients of subsidies.

Rubber tappers know that winning the fight for land rights is alone not enough. Rubber tappers, Indians, and Amazon peasant populations need better access to markets and new products if they are to escape what often amounts to semi-slavery. Forest people in some areas must work for two weeks to pay for a can of cooking oil.

These people, like workers in Poland, want access to the market on fair terms. What they have is socialism for the rich — the legacy of 25 years of authoritarian development planning. This is why Chico worked with US environmentalists to pressure multilateral banks to open their planning process to the

concerns of forest peoples.

The National Council of Rubber Tappers knows it can't solve these problems by itself. Now, for the first time, the rubber tappers and their allies — indigenous groups, the landless peasants' movement, the national labour movement — have powerful political support in Brazil.

The news in Brazil's first free presidential election in 30 years is the growth of the leftist Workers' Party, which has become a major force in national politics. The Workers' Party changed the terms of the presidential debate, gaining mass support for its unambiguous call for programmes such as land reform.

The groundswell of support for the Workers' Party recalls the Solidarity movement in Poland — a labour-based organization seeking democratic change in a dictatorial system. The spark of opposition to authoritarian rule has come from the left in Brazil because of the immense concentration of wealth in the hands of a right-leaning elite. In Eastern Europe, opposition has come from anti-communist movements because of the concentration of power in party-controlled bureaucracies. In both cases, the disenfranchised soon will have a much larger say in national decisions.

Stephen Schwartzman is a senior anthropologist with the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington. Osmarino Amancio Rodrigues is the secretary of the National Council of Rubber Tappers in Brazil. Christian Science Monitor.

Join the dots



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon? Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday! Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name:

Date of birth:

School:

Telephone:

(confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to:
ARAB TIMES
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date

Number grid

Each of the questions below is answered by a number. Answer all the questions, then fit the numbers (in words) into the grid. One letter of each word has already been filled in to help you.

- How many legs has a spider?
- How many babies are there when quadruplets are born?
- How many hours are there in a day?
- How many days are there in a week?
- How many years are there in a century?
- Which number is said to be unlucky?
- How many days are there in September?
- What does 'bi' mean in words like 'bicycle' and 'bifocal'?
- How many are there in a dozen?
- How many sides has a triangle?

Dear Junior readers,

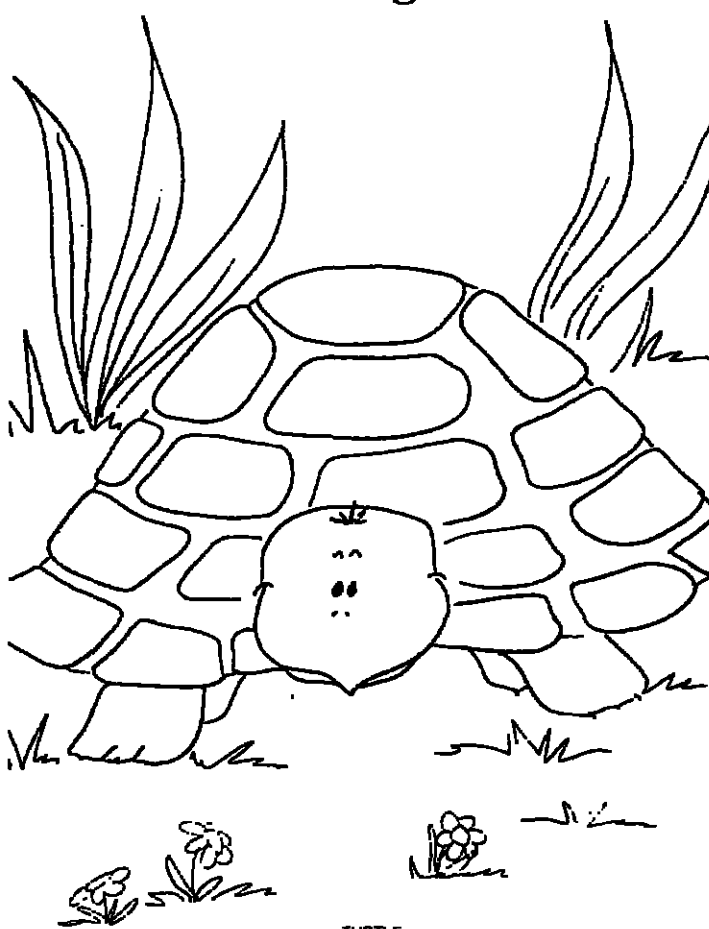
April is a month of warmth. It marks the beginning of the long hot summers we experience in Kuwait every year. People now start to getting their swimming gear ready to invade Kuwait's beautiful beaches.

If you are one of these people, you must always make sure you have enough food and drink available during your stay on the seaside. Usually, salty water and fresh air make you both thirsty and hungry. Fresh fruits are considered the best bargain as these food stuffs are high in water as well as vitamins and minerals. Potato crisps and light sandwiches are other favourites.

If you do decide to take food to the beach, please do not leave your rubbish on the golden shores. This really spoils natural beauty, making the place unattractive to new visitors.

Manal

Colouring time



TURTLE

Be a clown

Make a red nose by coloring a red dot on an egg box and tying string at the sides to the ends of the box.

Make a clown's hair by coloring two red lines on an egg box. Remember to put two small holes so that you can see!

Cut down an old pair of men's pyjama trousers to make some clown's baggy pants.

It's not a wonder



It's not a wonder, why I made a blunder, on the way to town. I took a street off to the left, and then that made me frown. A big dog started barking, and gave me such a fright. Oh dear, Oh dear, what can I do. I'm lost and can't come right. Ah, there I spot a policeman, stood tall, and wearing blue. I asked him the directions, he told me what to do. So he walks me very kindly, on his way back to the station. He gave me a map, and a pat on the back, and says "good day to you"...

J. Hodgson

TRIP TO HAWAII

Hawaii is one of our most beautiful states. The scenery is majestic and the people warm and friendly. Come along for a trip you'll never forget.

AIKANE	LEI	MAIKAI	NANI	PALI	PUPULE
ALII	LOLO	MAHAHINI	NUI	PAU	WAHA
ALOHA	LULU	MELE	ONO	POI	WAI
EWA	MAHALO	MUUMUU	OPU	PUNEE	WIKIWIKI

H U L A L A N A I A H O L A W
A A L A K H A L E E A L U I A
U M L P S N O K I P N P L A H
O H I A M O E A U R A L U M I
L M P M K H U N G K M E L K N
I A U E W A E S P K O K U A A
S L P L M A H A L O O P U I
L A U A A P O I P A L N A K K
E H L N I G A P K W A H A A I
E I E A K R N A N I L U A U W
N N M I A O S L G H O N I G I
U I I U I U N I A W L L E I K
P L M U U M U A P O N O U I
A I K A N E M E L E L O A H W
S P L M A K L E P B O R S M Z

Magic for beginners

Ultra-mental prediction

By Marco, the magician

THE magician is blind-folded on the stage. He has several bits of paper in hand each having a name either of a male or a female. With eyes closed, unable to read the name on the bit of paper, the magician brilliantly displays an ultra-mental power: he can tell whether the name written on the bit of paper is of a boy or a girl. Incredible isn't it? Well, this is how it's done.

The magician shows his audience a common piece of soft cardboard, preferably cartoline paper. He passes round the piece and allows the doubting Thomases to examine it closely. He then draws two vertical and two horizontal lines on the piece

of cardboard, so as to have nine like squares.

Done this, the magician asks anyone in the audience to suggest the name of any person and writes it in the top left-hand corner box (square). This is then followed with eight other suggestions of names. These the magician writes across the boxes horizontally. The names of males and females are to be written alternately.

The magician then asks for a volunteer from the audience and tells her or him to tear up the sheet of cardboard box-wise as neatly as possible. He now has nine similar-looking squares each with a name written on it. Thus prepared for the trick, he

then asks the audience to blind-fold him as exhaustively as possible. No hole(s) barred.

The nine squares are now handed over to the magician, who holds them behind his back. The juggler takes each square, at a time, and without failing, tells whether it's the name of a boy or a girl.

THE SECRET: To understand how the deception is brought about, prepare the cardboard sheet carefully. Think of the sheet while dividing it into nine squares, also keeping in mind that the original sheet should have straight-cut edges and that the division into nine sections is to be made by tearing

ANTONIO (MALE)	FATIMA (FEMALE)	PIEADIE (MALE)
CECILIA (FEMALE)	SEBASTIAN (MALE)	SOFIA (FEMALE)
PRAKASH (MALE)	SYNTIA (FEMALE)	RAJU (MALE)



Marco the magician, 403708, Goa, India.

so that the card pieces will have rough as well as smooth edges. With this arrangement, it is easy to tell the square that bears the name of the male from that which has the name of a female, by feeling the edges of each square with the fingers (behind the back, of course) before producing the square to the view of the audience for the prediction.

The "male" pieces (squares) will have two smooth edges and two rough edges.

The "female" pieces will have one smooth edge and three rough edges.

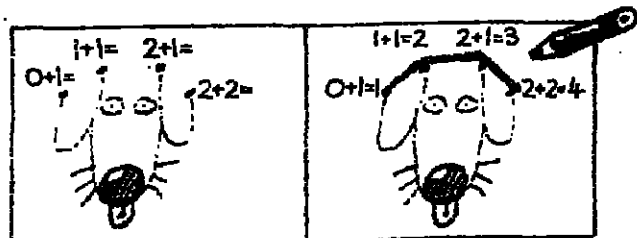
Only one piece will not have any smooth edge (the one in the centre of the original sheet) and it will be a "male" piece if you began filling the names with a male or vice-versa (see diagram). Simple, isn't it?

Matchmaker

Find the two matching objects in each row.

Dot-to-dot sums

Do each sum. Then join the dots in 1-2-3... order.



• 2+1

• 2-2
• 3-2
• 3+3

• 4-4

• 5-4

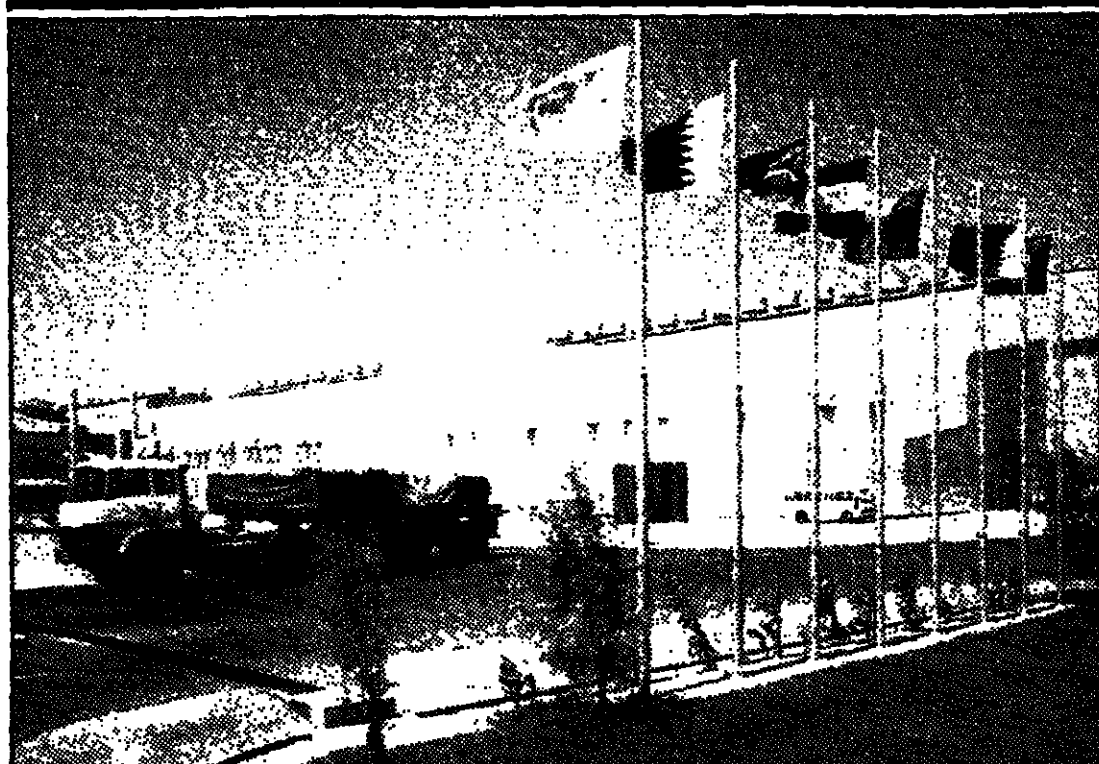
• 4-6

Congratulations



Saddam Safdar Hussain, a student of the International School of Pakistan, class Infant 3B, stood first in the annual exams. He secured the highest and record marks in the school - 99 per cent (594/600). Best wishes from parents and all well-wishers to carry on same results.

EVENTS



Garmco signs major agency deal in Tunisia

The Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Company (Garmco) has announced the signing of an agency agreement with Interexport S.A. to represent their business interests in Tunisia.

After discussions with a number of Tunisian companies, the Tunis based Interexport were appointed in November 1989 to handle acquisition of local business.

This association has already proved its success by resulting in two orders, delivered in January for Societe Brossette and Societe Revolon, both local hollowware manufacturers.

The Bahrain based Garmco is one of the world's most modern rolling mills producing high quality aluminium coil and sheet for local consumption and worldwide export.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World Annals: Cultural serial
- 2.00 Kabool Adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Ma Al Sabreen: Historical serial (part 8)
- 3.35 Qabdhay Bahool: Arabic serial (part 8)
- 4.15 Rasei Al Ekha: Local programme (part 8), prepared and presented by Dr Najeh Al Refai and Dr Nader Al Nouri
- 4.30 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 8)
- 5.30 Hadeeth Deeni: Arabic serial presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi
- 6.15 Baad Al Eftar:

KTV 2

- 6.30 Religious feature. Mazenger: Cartoon serial (part 8)
- 7.00 Madeenat Al Ajaeb: Daily local children serial (part 8)
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements.
- 8.15 A Religious symposium
- 9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 8)
- 9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The Family: Local serial (part 8)
- 11.15 3x3: Variety programme (part 8)
- 12.00 Shara Al Mawardi: Arabic serial (part 8)
- 1.15 Jawaz Fi Al Ser: Arabic film
- 3.00 News Summary
- 3.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.20 Holy Quran and closedown.

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 The Magical World of Gigi: A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Night of the Red Hunter
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan.
- 9.45 You and the Law: A weekly local informative programme on law and regulations enforced in Kuwait.
- 10.00 Faith and Science: Milk. Importance of milk...
- 10.30 "Black Schizophrenia"
- 11.30 Murphy Brown Set me Free
- 12.30 Wolf "Two Men and a Baby"
- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Goans come together on a single platform

THE Goan community in Kuwait is a significant part of the Indian expatriate community, diversified in all sectors of the economy, with the first of Goans having migrated in the 19th century.

Traditionally, the social, cultural and other needs of the Goan Community were to a certain extent met by the various socio-cultural organisations. However, desirous, it was not possible for these associations to meet the aspirations of the entire community due to their individual limitations. As a natural consequence, a demand was steadily building up over the years for a broad-based association of Goans to meet the aspirations of the entire Goan community.

The magnitude of this demand for an umbrella representation was evident in the large attendance recorded at each of the several meetings held for the launching of

Goan Welfare Society which culminated in its official formation on the 19th of January, 1990.

The Society aims to promote and foster social, cultural, educational and economic activities within the Goan community in the State of Kuwait and elsewhere, through seminars, cultural and social events etc.

With the birth of the 'society', Goans have for the first time a truly representative and well organised forum based on village representation, with all controls as well as optimum functional flexibility, to meet its objectives.

Aloysius J. Carvalho and Joe Correia were unanimously elected as the chairman and president of the co-ordination and Managing Committees respectively, for the year 1990/91.

The following activities have been

proposed for the year:

1. May Queen Ball. The traditional cultural event with the crowning of the 'May Queen' 1990. Date May 10 at the Messilah Beach Hotel. 'Top Ranks' in attendance.

2. Goa Day. A cultural extravaganza with 'One Act Play competition', 'Mando festival' and a 'Talent Contest' among other things.

3. Sports Extravaganza. Competition in track and field games for all ages. A full day programme.

4. Seminars and courses are proposed in various fields including, accounting, computer sciences, travel & tourism, vocational & career guidance etc.

5. Retirement and rehabilitation planning cells.

6. Entrepreneurial development cell is proposed to help build potential entrepreneurs wishing to invest in India.

7. Hospital visiting committees to con-

sole Goans in difficulties and pain.

8. Airline cell to take up issues pertaining to travel, tourism and airfreight with the Indian national carrier.

9. Institute scholarships and awards for meritorious and deserving Goan students in Kuwait and in Goa.

10. And generally to support Goan causes in Goa including support to the Konkani language (mother tongue of Goans), economic development of Goa and charitable causes.

We invite all Goans to come forward and offer their unqualified support to the society to help it realise its objectives.

Representatives of the society met in India Regional Director Michael Mascarenhas yesterday and submitted a memorandum listing the problems faced by AI passengers to Goa.

CINEMA

- Al Andalus Street Justice
- Al Sahmyah Malone
- Al Hamra Hell on the Battle Ground
- Drive-in Arabic film
- Al Firdous Nigahen
- Fahadhel Open
- Hisaab Khoun Ka Fahadhel
- Brass Target
- Bhul Bichar Granada
- Adharvam Salsabikhat
- The Junkman Jeeb
- Mastan
- Ahmad Drive-in Arabic film

PRAYERS

Imsak	4.05
Fajr	4.15
Zohr	11.51
Asr	3.23
Maghreb	6.08
Isha	7.25

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Graduates of the KIH carving course

The Kuwait International Hotel organised an intensive 8 weeks course for ladies interested in learning how to make table decorations carved out of fruits and vegetables. It involved practical lessons, question and answer sessions and a brief exam on the final day. The classes were conducted by the hotel's qualified Kitchen Artists, Noel Paelmo and

Arthur Balares. The objective of the course was to encourage participants to explore the art of simple carving on their own. The certificates were distributed by Monika Simon (seated 3rd from right), wife of the General Manager of the Kuwait International Hotel, Hermann Simon.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bite 'n' Pieces

An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Ladies International League

LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Holy Week 1990

Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm, Holy Mass (English).

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, Confession; 6.30 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam — in big hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am, Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm, Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm, Adoration (English — in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm, Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm, Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am, Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am, Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm, Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm, Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm, Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful henna work comes alive at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Kuwait Little Theatre

KUWAIT Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood butchers and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

Approb essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Revolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan." The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M. J. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. Approb, 2425315. Fax. 5323751.

PAC's Silver Jubilee

THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal." Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Quran Khawani

A meeting was held at the residence of Nazir Dogar under the Chairmanship of Dr Riaz Ahmed Mahesar, president Pakistan People's Club, regarding the observance of 11 death anniversary of former prime minister and chairman Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on April 4.

The meeting was attended by all central executive committee members. It was decided to hold Quran Khawani at the residence of Haji Qamar at 4 pm on April 4 1990. All members are invited.

Saligocars

CALLING all Saligocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloio Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246121, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Approb Eid dinner

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising a Gala Eid Milani Party on the second day of Eid Al Fitr, an Approb press release said.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes, the press release said. The venue of the party will be announced shortly.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistan schools in Kuwait.

Summer Affair '90

THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen. Join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Narmada's Malayalam play

NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

Rose Fern's drama

MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxé" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Swedish Ladies Meeting

The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorecho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Janeiro Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebbi Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Urtada, organised by Urtada Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

Sindhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous play back singer Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

HOTELS

Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialities such as: Khandari Tikka, Mal Muli Kebab, Navratan Biryani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carryaway pick up's from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tel. 2425131/2.

Holiday Inn

Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

Ramadan at Messilah Beach Hotel

AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialities.

Ghazga & Sohaur

Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohour buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

Sheraton Hotel

HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco + Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Sohour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Margorata Wejiss plays in the lobby diwanija after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

SAS Hotel

AL GHAEZER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip, for reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of mezze — delicious Hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies — prime American beef, Gulf lobster hamour or zubeidi. Enjoy your della at the diwanija overlooking the sea. For reservation, pls call up 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turpiss and chilli sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialities from our chef's recommendation or take your pick from our delightful menu of sumptuous Chinese favourites.

Book for a nice table in cozy elegance of our Peacock Room. Pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items — juicy burgers, hot French fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus softdrinks and juices.

The Meridian

DURING the holy month of Ramadan **LA BRASSERIE:** Meridian invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of

mezzah, majbous, salfita, baal-baki, harissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like basbousah, maamoul bel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am. A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble-Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as Irq souss, tamer hindy, laban eiran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING: For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghabghah will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

SPORTS

Apollo Fitness Centre

ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed 10.30 — 11.30 am; Apollo Workout — Sunday — 5.30 — 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.30 — 6 pm; Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) — Friday — 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00 — 5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) — 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Yoga lessons

FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

India Festival Tournaments

Indian Arts Circle in its press release, announced that an all-Indian Open badminton and volleyball tournaments will be conducted in connection with the India Festival.

All Indians/individuals are invited to register themselves for early fixtures to avoid disappointment.

Both the tournaments will commence on 9.4.1990 at 7.30 pm. Last date for entry will be 5.4.1990 before 10.00 pm. Fixtures will be displayed at I.A.C. on 7.4.1990 at 8.00 pm. Participation is only against India Festival Master coupons for each event/individual. For further details please contact: IAC office or India Festival Office Tel: 3904817 (5 pm-10 pm), 2456293 (5.30 pm-11 pm)

Dinghy Laser Sailing

M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times, Fridays 10.00 am, Tuesdays 15.00. All members are requested to attend the pre-race meeting on Friday, 30.3.90 at 09.30. New members welcome, limited number of club boats available. For further details please contact: David Clark (W) 4845171 (H) 2451791, Roger Brown (W) 4736167, (H) 5325139.

Daniella Bowling

ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie — Tel: 3715637 or Marianne — Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

FILCHECK black and white

The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FILCHECK) will hold its "Black and White Nite" on Thursday, 12 April 1990, at 7.00 pm at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

As the name implies, all guests and participants are to come in black and white attire to celebrate the club's Triple Firsts Affair featuring 1) the induction of its first elected Board of Directors and Officers, 2) Awarding ceremony of the First Rated Chess Tournament and 3) last but not the least, the first party ever organised by the club.

Invitation for all members are now available at the club's headquarters. For details please contact Edward or Samy 2402405.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Arab bank looks forward with cautious optimism

Economies enter 1990s split between indebted and rich

DUBAI, April 2. (Reuters): Arab economies enter the 1990s split between indebted nations which must attract more foreign exchange, and rich oil producers which now need to allow their private sectors to mature away from state control.

The Arab world's biggest international bank, Arab Banking Corporation, looked forward into the next decade with cautious optimism in its latest major survey of Arab economies.

"Although the 1980s were undoubtedly traumatic times for many Arab economies, the many positive aspects of the decade should not be forgotten," said ABC President Abdullah Saudi, referring to the effects of the 1980s oil price crash.

The challenge for indebted North African states, and other highly indebted countries such as Jordan, and Egypt was to keep fiscal policies under tight control to maintain creditworthiness in the international financial community, it said.

Referring to individual countries, ABC said that the key to Saudi Arabia's future development lies in boosting the non-oil export sector and in greater overseas industrial expansion.

The big drop in state oil revenues in the 1980s has led to a quicker than expected structural change, with more emphasis on the private sector, it said.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Kuwait's oil exports and vast per capita external investments ensure its medium-term future but it has a long way to go in improving the efficiency of its internal economy, ABC said.

The United Arab Emirates main problem is to ensure more even development among the seven emirates of its federation, which are dominated economically by oil producer Abu Dhabi and major trade centre Dubai, it said.

Iraq is a special case because of the damage to its economy from the war with Iran, but relatively minor damage to its oil facilities puts it in a strong position economically if it can work out a proper peace with Tehran, the report said.

The creation last year of the Maghreb union of Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Tunisia and Mauritania offered them the advantages of more integration within two economic blocs — their own and the European Economic Community.

However, Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia especially must control population growth, and create more balanced industries and better employment opportunities, it said.

Egypt's recent economic reforms have put it in a better position for the medium-term, but the country's large population will still impose severe strains on living standards, it said.

Syria still suffers from a large foreign debt but prospects for gas production and the government's willingness to take more responsibility for economic problems rather than blaming external factors is encouraging, ABC said.

Kuwait deposits active in short dates: Kuwaiti dinar inter-bank deposit rates were active in short dates up to one month today, dealers said.

Overnight was being quoted at 8-9/16 8-5/8 per cent. In spot/next, business was done at both 8-3/8 and 8-1/2 and later fell back to be quoted again around 8-1/4 8-1/2. Domestic banks were quoting three-months at 8-5/8 8-7/8 while offshore banks were offering three months at 8-7/8, dealers said.

Pakistan to seek \$3.57b foreign aid

ISLAMABAD, April 2. (Reuters): Pakistan will seek \$3.57 billion in foreign aid in the 1990/91 fiscal year beginning in July when it hopes to sustain economic growth of more than five per cent, government sources said on Monday.

US, Japan talk on trade frictions

Trying to remove 'structural' roadblocks

WASHINGTON, April 2. (Reuters): Buoyed by success in resolving several specific trade disputes, US and Japanese negotiators meet today and tomorrow to try to remove broader "structural" roadblocks that stand in the way of increased American exports to Japan.

The negotiators open a new round of so-called structural impediments initiative talks that began last September in an effort to reform Japanese business and government policies the United States says keeps US goods off Japanese shelves.

In mid-April they are to issue an interim report on progress made and in July a final report, with US and congressional sources saying trade curbs could be imposed if Japan did not make significant moves to open its markets.

US trade representative Carla Hills says the interim report should be "a constructive blueprint for future action."

A Japanese official told reporters in Washington that Japan was ready to agree to a report that satisfied both

"The overall economic and social infrastructure has been dramatically upgraded, and the region's industrial and agricultural base immeasurably strengthened," he said in a preface to the 175-page report, received today.

In broad terms, the major oil producers in the Gulf, and Libya, have completed the large, state-funded infrastructure projects which have set the base for their economies, ABC said.

Prospects for their future growth and economic stability now rely on a successful devolution of state economic power into the private sector, allowing a broader-based economy, more resistant to oil price fluctuations, it said.

Tokyo share prices

Nikkei stock average: 28002.07

(- 1978.00)

Volume: 450 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 159.95

Name of stock

Advantest Corp 4880 -160

Ajinomoto 1840 -60

Alps Electric 1920 -90

Amada 1430 -90

Asahi Chem Ind 795 -10

Asahi Glass 1580 -150

C. Itoh Co. 680 -48

Canon Inc. 1590 -90

Casio Comp 1460 -60

Dai Nippon Printing 1820 -50

Daiichi Seiyaku 2200 -40

Dainippon Ph 2360 -170

Daishinku Corp 1640 -260

Eisai 1650 -80

Fanuc Ltd. 7100 -350

Fuji Photo 3810 -100

Fujitsu Ltd. 1390 -90

Hitachi Credit 1370 -40

Hitachi Koki 1940 -160

Hitachi Ltd. 1500 -90

Hitachi Metal 1210 -90

Ito Yokado Co 1670 -90

Kajima Corp 3600 -20

Kawasaki H I 1510 -150

Kobe Cast Iron 669 -51

Kokusai Elec. 950 -130

Komatsu Ltd. 4890 -180

Kyocera Corp 955 -75

Marui 7360 -200

Matsushita Ind 2480 -10

Mat Electric 3730 -60

Mazda M C 2090 -60

Mitsubishi Corp 775 -70

Mitsubishi Estate 1120 -120

Mitsubishi H I 1440 -90

Mitsubishi R E 792 -78

1530 -120

Pioneer Elec Co. 5900 -200

Renown Look Inc 1720 -130

Sanyo Elec Co. 760 -65

Secom Co., Ltd. 5650 -230

Shinetsu Chem 1440 -50

Shindengen Elec 1110 -140

Sony Corp 7600 -400

Sumitomo Elec Ind. 1320 -80

Sumitomo Metal Ind. 480 -59

Takeda Chemical 1650 -100

TDK Corp 5950 -70

Tokio Marine & Fire 1280 -120

Tokyo Elec Power 3600 -320

Tokyo Electron Ltd 3900 -160

Toppa Printing 1700 -140

Toray Ind Inc. 688 -27

Toshiba Corp 1020 -40

Toyota Motor 2170 -50

Yaskawa Elec 950 -40

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking

(Mid-east), Bahrain

World's second-largest bank inaugurated

TOKYO, April 2. (AP): Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank, Ltd., a merger of two major Japanese banks, opened its doors today, becoming the world's second-largest bank in terms of deposits, company officials said.

After a signboard with the new bank's name and its cherry blossom logo was unveiled early today morning, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, chairman Yasuo Matsushita and president Kenichi Suematsu cut a red-and-white tape at the entrance hall of the bank's head office to mark its official opening.

Matsushita was formerly president of Taiyo

Kobe Bank, while Suematsu had been president of Mitsui Bank, Ltd.

"I hope the new bank will soon develop its own unique characteristics, neither those of Taiyo Kobe nor of Mitsui," Hashimoto told reporters at the inauguration, said bank spokeswoman Reiko Nakajima.

Ms. Nakajima said the opening ceremony followed a board of directors meeting at which the posts of the new executives were officially decided.

Company officials said the merger between the two middle-sized commercial banks was intended to enable them to compete more effectively with

their larger Japanese rivals. Mitsui Bank, with its strength in corporate accounts and overseas activities, complements Taiyo Kobe Bank, which boasts a large domestic network.

As a result of the merger, the new Mitsui Taiyo Kobe Bank will have 611 branches across the country and a workforce of 23,499, in addition to 101 overseas branches and offices in 31 countries, Ms. Nakajima said.

Its next largest competitor, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, has 392 branches in Japan and abroad and employs 18,411, officials said.

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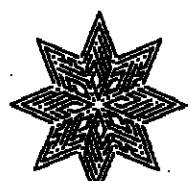
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STEP B : Enter your personal account number.
STEP C : Choose the service code required.

CODE	SERVICE	CODE	SERVICE
1	Balance Enquiry	9	Auto Bank Card
2	Short Statement	9	Details on Auto
3	Full Statement	10	Bank Plus Card
4	Cheque Book Request	10	Funds Transfer
5	Exchange Rates	11	between your accounts
6	Interest Rates	11	CBK News
7	Loan Balance Enquiry	99	List of Phonelink
8	Report Lost or Stolen		Services

STEP D : Enter your secret Auto Bank card number.



البنك التجاري الكويتي
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Keep it in your wallet



Floor dealers struggle to trade at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as the Tokyo Stock Market plunged, losing nearly six per cent of its value in the morning session on mounting fears insurance funds would dump deadwood shares at the start of the new financial year. (Reuters wirephoto) (Details Page 16)

Fare structure to be discussed with Kuwait Airways

AI official in Kuwait talks

By M.C. Bose

Business editor

M.P. MASCARENHAS, Air-India's director of Gulf and the Middle East, is currently visiting Kuwait to discuss fare structure and related issues with the top officials of Kuwait Airways.

Mascarenhas told the Arab Times that he would meet Chazal Al Mishan, deputy director-general (commercial), Sheikh Tala Al Sabah, commercial director and other senior officials of Kuwait Airways to discuss the fare structure and service facilities.

Replying to a question regarding increasing the fare, he said: "We do not anticipate any changes in fare structure particularly to India. Kuwait Airways has taken the lead in establishing a Yield Improvement Programme (YIP).

The airlines are keen to improve the fare retentions. Mascarenhas added: "Air-India as a national carrier, we have been operating to 13 countries and 15 stations. We follow the fare structure and marketing strategy of the Kuwait national carrier. Kuwait is one of the areas where we do not introduce the IATA fare.

When asked about some of the other airlines which offer fairly reduced fares, he said Air-India gives comparatively better services such as direct flights to Trivandrum and Bombay whereas other airlines offer indirect services involving longer flying time and sometimes overnight stay. He said: "We believe our product is designed to satisfy the needs of overseas Indians. In all we have total eight services. P.R. Kanga, Air-India's Kuwait manager was also present at the meeting.

US regains No 1 spot as world exporter

WASHINGTON, April 2. (AP): The United States regained its position as the world's leading exporter last year after losing it to West Germany, the International Monetary Fund reported yesterday.

The IMF said US foreign sales were worth \$364 billion for 1989, compared with \$341.4 billion for West Germany. Japan was third with \$273.9 billion.

West Germany, which topped the United States from the No. 1 trade spot in 1986, and Japan both had trade surpluses, however, while the United States still had a deficit of \$128.9 billion, down from \$137.1 billion, according to the IMF's trade calculations.

The deficit is due to the fact that the United States is also the world's greatest importer and its imports also grew rapidly, to \$492.9 billion from 459.5 billion.

The West German surplus, now the world's largest, amounted to \$71.4 billion and Japan's was \$63.9 billion, the IMF reported.

The Commerce Department, using difference means of calculating the trade imbalance, has put the 1989 merchandise trade deficit at \$109 billion.

Of six major countries, the United States had the largest increase in foreign sales, 12.5 per cent, the IMF said. West German exports also rose, by 5.6 per cent to \$341 billion. Since East Germany also is an important trader, a reunified Germany may take over the world's first place as exporter once again.

As a group, the 22 countries the fund classifies as industrial increased their buying faster than their sales last year, with many of the imports apparently from the Third World.

Led by the United States, they imported \$2.2 trillion worth of goods in 1989, up 8.7 per cent. Their exports also rose, to 2.1 trillion, but that was an increase of only 6.5 per cent — a widening of their overall trade deficit.

But the West Germans imported only \$270 billion worth.

KD's foreign exchange rate

GENEVA, April 2. (Kuna): At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at \$5.1071 Swiss francs, as against \$5.0974 at the close of trading last Friday, the Swiss-Kuwaiti bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.7717 (\$5.7568), the pound sterling 2.0917 (\$2.0647), Japanese yen 543.6851 (\$535.3330), and the US dollar 3.4002 (\$3.3892).

Saudi Arabia accepts some UAE products

102 factories still banned

ABU DHABI, April 2. (AP): Saudi Arabia has allowed imports of products from eight factories in the United Arab Emirates but continues to restrict those from 102 others. Finance Ministry officials said yesterday.

The UAE had also banned the imports from 15 Saudi factories, as the two countries streamline their trade on basis of a Gulf Cooperation Council pact, said the officials.

The issue was triggered by a recent trade wrangle between the two countries when Saudi Arabia blocked the UAE re-export trade through its borders as of March 1, demanding certificates of origin to ascertain that the items were produced in the UAE.

The GCC, which also includes Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, was born in 1981 as a quest of the conservative Arab state for a common market.

Their unified economic agreement allows tariff-free movement of goods across each other's borders, but the Saudis were apparently concerned about the dumping of cheaply priced products from southeast Asia on its markets.

The UAE-Saudi joint industrial committee held a two-day meeting recently in the Saudi capital of Riyadh to solve the wrangle, and the officials were

commenting on the outcome. A re-export trade worth \$300 million a year from the UAE to Saudi Arabia had been crippled by the Saudi decision. The Saudis have however relaxed the ban following the intervention of the GCC central secretariat and until a final settlement is reached.

"The Saudi Arabian side has agreed to offer exemptions of customs duty for the products of eight UAE factories," said one of the officials.

"The Saudi side also agreed to gradually release the ban on UAE factories in accordance with a timetable and after inspections to ensure their commitment to the GCC standardisation and specifications measures and the GCC unified economic agreement," he said.

The UAE re-export trade to Saudi Arabia has more than doubled since 1985, estimated around 1.1 billion dirhams (\$300 million) in 1989, forming 20 per cent of the total UAE re-exports mostly garments, gold, cement and manufacturing goods coming from Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Dubai has an active free trade zone.

Saudi Arabia was the biggest GCC market for the UAE re-exports and the second biggest world-wide after Iran which received 1.6 billion dirhams (\$435 million) worth of goods in 1989.

Opec nations lose \$200b

ABU DHABI, April 2. (Kuna): Opec countries had lost more than \$200 billion as result of the fall in oil prices over the past four years, said an Arab oil expert in a press interview published here yesterday.

Dr. Nicola Sarkis, director of the Paris-based Arab Petroleum Studies Centre told the oil and industry newsletter of the UAE oil ministry that Opec or some Gulf countries had not started the price war and oil prices remained the same, that is \$28 (per barrel) or even dropped to \$25, producing countries within Opec could have averted this loss exceeding \$200 billion during the years 1986-89.

Noting that the loss was substantive, the expert said it explains the great economic and financial crises hitting most Opec states for four years as well as all developing oil-producing countries.

He added that final Japanese plans for the fourth round of the structural talks would be formulated by today. The talks follow an agreement two weeks ago to open the Japanese market to American and other foreign supercomputers and an agreement last Friday to further open the Japanese telecommunications market.

In addition, the two sides have resolved major differences over opening Japan's satellite market and are making progress on opening its market to foreign wood products. The US side will be led by the Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs, Richard McCormack, deputy US trade representative S. Linn Williams, and the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs, Charles Dallara.

Heading the Japanese delegation will be the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Koji Watanabe, the Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry for International Affairs, Naomichi Suzuki, and the Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Makoto Utsumi.

Energy file

Algeria to double LPG output

NICOSIA, April 2. (Reuters): Algeria will ask foreign firms to help double its production of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by taking part in a four million tonne per year expansion, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said today.

The Nicosis-based newsletter quoted Algeria Mines Minister Sadek Boussena as saying the state-owned firm Sonatrach would launch a campaign during the second half of joint ventures which would produce and separate the LPG.

The plans call for construction of an 800-1,000 km pipeline from the Alrar field in the southeastern part of the country to Hassi Messaoud and Hassi R'mel in the northeast, he said.

Two pipelines with a capacity of 10 million tonnes per year already transport LPG from the northeast area to Arzew on the Mediterranean coast.

LPG would be produced from the Rhourde Nouss field on the route of the proposed pipeline and from nearby oilfields where gas and LPG are presently reinjected, Boussena said.

He told MEES technical studies were already completed and preliminary contacts had been made with foreign firms. He did not name the companies.

MEES quoted Boussena as saying studies were also under way on a project to produce 1.5-2 million tonnes per year of condensates from the Haoud Al Hamra area near Hassi Messaoud. The unexploited gas field there contains LPG and condensates.

Talks with the Kuwait Foreign Oil Exploration Co KSC (KUFPEC) for an exploration and production concession near Nezarine in northern Algeria were at an advanced stage, Boussena said. Sonatrach discovered light, sulphur-free oil at a depth of more than 9,000 feet there in January 1989.

Italy's Agip would also undertake further drilling in the Zemoul Elkebar region 600 kms southeast of Algiers where it discovered oil in December 1986 and January 1990, Boussena said.

Boussena told MEES talks were continuing with Italy on doubling a planned four to six billion cubic metre expansion of the trans-Mediterranean (Transmed) pipeline which carries Algerian gas to Sicily via Tunisia.

The 1,100 km pipeline, comprising three undersea lines, has a capacity of 14 billion cubic metres in its Algerian section, 13 billion cubic metres in Tunisia and 12.5 billion in the Sicilian.

MEES said further investment would be needed in both the Tunisian and Italian sectors to boost capacity of the Transmed through adding a wider fourth subsea pipeline for a fifth pipeline. Algeria would have to spend \$200 million on a booster pump system.

Debt swap
LAGOS: Nigeria is studying the possibility of a debt swap with its private commercial creditors in a bid to generate funds for the \$2.5 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) scheme due to take off in 1995.

Ike Rekkers, managing director of the Nigerian LNG company, which is responsible for the project, was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying that negotiations among the relevant government departments were at an early stage.

Price hike
QUITO: Ecuadorian Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz has said that increased world-wide oil demand in the second half of this year would spur crude prices past the \$18 a barrel mark.

Speaking at a press conference, the minister predicted that the market would see a "much more interesting level" for oil prices in the second semester. They could even reach \$20, he affirmed.

Unemployment

WARSAW, April 2. (Reuters): Poland's jobless total rose to more than a quarter of a million by the end of March as layoffs mounted under a government programme aimed at fighting inflation, the Labour Ministry said on Monday.

Dinar higher against dollar

Dow Jones records slight gain

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the Kuwaiti dinar exchange rate traded slightly higher against the US dollar ending the week at 294.10 fils compared with its week before last closing of 294.41 fils. The KD traded lower against the pound sterling, ending the week at 490.12 fils compared with its week before last closing of 469.73 fils. The KD was also lower against the Swiss franc ending the week at 194.90 fils compared with its week before last closing of 193.37 fils. The KD was lower against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 249.54 fils compared with its week before last closing of 249.32 fils. The KD was higher against the Australian dollar ending the week at 220.06 fils compared with its week before last closing of 220.81 fils.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 437.00 fils compared with its week before last closing of 436.16 fils. The KD traded slightly higher against all other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates. As for the KD money market rates, short-term interbank offer rates, traded relatively higher compared to their previous rates. One month and 3 months rates traded around 8.81 per cent-8.87 per cent range compared to 8.75 per cent-8.85 per cent range the week before last. Both six-month and 12-month rates also traded higher around 9.93 per cent-9.00 per cent range the week before last.

As for the treasury bills, the Central Bank announced two new T-bills, the first is three-month T-bill issue No. (106) of KD60 million, with effective and maturity dates of April 4, and June 27 1990, respectively. The second issue is six-months T-bill issue No. (107), of KD60 million with effective and maturity dates of April 4 and Oct 3, 1990 respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street share prices rallied in the first part of last week on futures-related buying, before easing later of programme selling and as a bigger than expected rise in the Chicago purchasing managers' index for March hit US stocks, raising concern about inflation. The Dow Jones Industrial Average opened the week at 2707, reached a high of 2743 before closing lower at 2707, but recorded a slight recorded gain of three points over the previous week's closing at 2704.

Share prices on the London Stock Exchange eased last week as a string of disappointing corporate results, a lack of impetus from the Tokyo Stock Market and domestic economic and political uncertainties moved the market lower, the FTSE-100 opened the week at 2298 and closed at 2246, recording a loss of 38 points over the previous week's closing at 2284.

Stock prices on the Tokyo Stock Market moved higher earlier last week on a strong recovery in buying interest before falling sharply as the yen dropped to 158 to the dollar and bond prices weakened. Also prices plunged further on a index-linked selling. The key 225-share Nikkei index opened the week at 32,333 and closed at 29,980, recording a loss of 392 points over the previous week closing at 30,379.

US dollar

The US dollar traded relatively firm from most part of the week, while the lack of incentives for other currencies has kept the dollar bullishness.

The US gross national product final revision of fourth quarter was up slightly from 0.9 per cent gain in its estimate last month. And for all of 1989 GNP grew at 3 per cent, which is the smallest since 2.7 per cent increase in 1986. Although the pace of economic growth is believed to have risen further during the current quarter partly because of weather related factors, however, it will not bounce back in 1990 to the levels experienced during much of the 1980s.

US February single-family homes rose 3.1 per cent in February to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 607,000 units. The department revised the fall in January sales to show a drop of 6.8 per cent instead of the previously reported 7.1 per cent decline to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 589,000 units. The overall rise in February, single-family home sales was entirely because of a sharp 21.3 per cent sales increase from January levels in the south to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 256,000 units.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted 3-3 at its February 6-7 meeting to maintain a steady monetary policy, with a neutral bias toward future changes. The FOMC also kept its intermeeting federal funds rate reference range at 6-10 per cent, and it expects reserve conditions to be consistent with annual M-2 growth of 7 per cent and M-3 growth of 3-1/2 per cent in the December-March period.

Given the pickup in the economy and a stubborn inflation rate, the Federal Reserve probably will keep a steady grip on credit. Although speculation of an early ease in US discount rate is fading, the US dollar seems to be also benefiting from the reluctance by the US Fed to ease its credit policy.

Pound sterling

The pound sterling opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6175/85 and closed higher at \$1.6445/55 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.6005/15. The pound firmed last week on short-covering, and was supported by its high yields which were providing buying incentive.

UK Treasury Financial Secretary Lilley said high interest rates and a tight fiscal policy will remain in Britain until inflation comes down. Defeating inflation remains the government's overriding priority.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher reaffirmed to Parliament her government's intent to join the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) of the European Monetary Unit (EMU) when certain conditions are met. The Madrid conditions are that other EC members lift exchange controls. UK inflation is lower and that there is no per cent competition in the community.

Although, the pound is likely to remain steady for the time being, the pound's upside is seen as limited. In proper term, the UK currency is expected to suffer renewed pressure because of poor fundamentals and political uncertainty.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 156.70/80 yen and closed the week lower at 158.50/60 yen compared with its week before last closing of 154.25/35 yen. The yen has continued to trade weak, despite Bank of Japan's continuous intervention efforts to stop the yen from falling.

Japan's current account trade surplus has narrowed by 32 per cent in the month of February. The current account, which is the broadest measure of trade in goods and services shrank to an unadjusted \$4.91 billion surplus in the month of February. In January the current account balance had posted its first deficit in six years. This is further evidence of a narrowing in the current account that began 12 months ago. Speculative inventory build-ups in oil reserves helped push the import number higher, while exports were almost unchanged.

The prolonged weakness in the yen is a concern to the US because of the impact on the trade balance, and apparently there appears to be very limited tools to help the yen back to its previous levels. Accordingly, we expect the yen to remain under pressure for the few weeks to come.

Deutschemerk

The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.7072/82 marks and closed the week higher at 1.6945/55 marks compared with its week before last closing at 1.7030/40 marks.

West German import prices for the month of February fell 0.4 per cent from a month earlier.

Arab Bank reports record profit in '89

AMMAN, April 2. (Reuters): The Arab Bank Plc, one of the Arab world's biggest commercial banks, reported record 1989 profits for itself and for Arab Bank group, despite an economic crisis in Jordan where it has its headquarters.

Its annual report said Arab Bank achieved net income of \$2.3 million dinars (\$77.8 million at today's exchange rate), compared to 35.1 million dinars (\$52.2 million) in 1988. Allowing for dinar depreciation, this was an increase of 5.1 per cent in dollar terms.

Net income of Arab Bank group, which includes 11 overseas sister institutions, subsidiaries and associated companies, rose to \$98.1 million from \$36.8 million in 1988, the report said.

Arab Bank assets grew to 6.3 billion dinars from 4.6 billion in 1988 mainly due to the lower dinar. Arab Bank group assets shrank to \$13 billion from 13.4 billion the previous year.

Arab Bank's loan portfolio increased to 2.3 billion dinars from 1.6 billion in 1988.

It developed new investment funds through its regional branch in London and offered new investment products based on Islamic principles which ban interest. It opened new branches in Rome and Seoul and several cash offices in Jordan.

Left-wing opposition parties, backed by Labour, succeeded in defeating a bid by the right-wing Likud Party and religious factions to increase elec-

UK pound, London shares fall sharply
Collapse in Tokyo likely to have knock-on effect on Wall Street

LONDON, April 2. (Agencies): Britain's pound sterling and the London stock market fell sharply this morning after weekend violence in London linked to the introduction of a new local tax to replace the property rating system.

Sterling opened in London at \$1.6225 and 2.7582 West German marks after closing at 1.6460 and 2.78 on Friday.

British shares also opened well down and sank further in early trading before steadying somewhat. The 100-share FTSE index opened 23.6 points lower at 2,224.3 and tumbled to an early low 2,213.8. By 0900 GMT it was 27.2 down at 2,230.7.

The second largest one-day fall in the history of the Tokyo Stock Exchange also weighed heavily on British shares, but the West German bourse took the news from Japan more calmly and dealers said prices were steady in pre-bourse trading.

In Tokyo the 225-share Nikkei average plunged 1,978.38 points to close at 28,002.07. It was the largest fall since October 20, 1987 when the

share barometer dived 3,836.48. It had fallen 1,045.48 points on Friday after a brief recovery earlier last week.

"The collapse in Tokyo is having a considerable impact, not so much in London directly, but for what it may do in New York later," one London dealer said. "It may have a fairly sharp knock-on effect on Wall Street and that's what we're anticipating here."

The mark showed little initial reaction to news the Bonn government and the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, favoured a basic exchange rate of two East German marks to one West German mark in German monetary union with the exception of the first 2,000 marks of individual savings.

It opened in London at 1.6994 to the dollar after 1.6890 at the close on Friday and was quoted at just over 1.70 in early European business.

The Japanese yen weakened. It started in London at 159.78 to the dollar after closing on Friday at 158.20, but held just under the psy-

chologically important 160 level in early trading.

Gold was little changed after a sharp decline early last week. It opened in London at \$368.90 an ounce, 10 cents down on Friday's finish.

In Wellington, sterling fell sharply today as dealers reacted nervously in the first currency market to open after the weekend anti-tax riots in London.

Concerns the trouble could weaken Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's leadership pushed the pound down about 1-1/2 US cents to 1.6295/05 US dollars in early trading in New Zealand.

One dealer said Saturday's protest, in which more than 400 people were injured, was a significant indicator of anti-Thatcher feeling in Britain. But he said rising British interest rates should attract money back into sterling soon. "I think it's probably a little overdone... I think we should see sterling go back up really. Things will probably settle down over the week."

In New York, all things considered, Wall Street stock market players are looking at this year's first quarter as a victory.

The Dow Jones industrial average showed a small gain for the week of 2.93 points, ending at 2,707.21 and wrapping up a first quarter in which it fell 45.99 points or 1.67 per cent. But the loss is mild compared with how things looked earlier in the quarter. The market had dug itself out of a deep hole, having dropped to just above 2,500 in a January tumble.

But even more impressive, it made its recovery while the Japanese market was being rocked by a 23 per cent drop in its Nikkei index, which shed almost 9,000 points to end at 29,980.45.

"We've done pretty well, considering the fall in the Japanese market, and other uncertainties about our own economy and corporate earnings," said Paul Kronloken, of Piper, Jaffray, & Hopwood Inc.

Tokyo stock prices fall

Dollar surges to a three-year high against yen

TOKYO, April 2. (AP): The key index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange took its second-largest plunge ever today as the US dollar surged to a three-year high against the Japanese yen.

Analysts said both markets were shaken by a report in Japan's top financial newspaper that major life insurers planned to shift funds out of the stock market.

In its lead front-page story, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said major insurance firms, including Dai-ichi Mutual Life Insurance Co., Nippon Life Insurance Co., and Sumitomo Mutual Life Insurance Co., planned to sell large blocks of shares because the ratio of their stock holdings to their total assets was approaching the 30 per cent set by the Finance Ministry.

Although the Finance Ministry and at least one insurer denied the report, it agreed with market expectations for a general shift by major investors out of the stock market and into bonds, said Jason James, strategist at James Capital Pacific Ltd.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues reacted by shedding 1,978.38 points, or 6.59 per cent, to 28,002.07, its second largest single-day decline ever.

On Friday, it lost 1,045.71 points, or 3.37 per cent, in the market's seventh largest single-day decline in terms of points and percentage.

Erratic oil demands may curb expansion

KUWAIT, April 2. (Reuters): Uncertain oil demand and the threat of import duties in consumer countries could hamper plans to expand the world's crude production capacity, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Oapec) said.

The Kuwait-based organisation said exporting countries would not have difficulty securing finances to expand production to meet growing world demand, even when foreign help was needed.

"The real obstacle to expanding production capacity is uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries will fare," the Kuwait-based group said in its monthly bulletin.

"The repeated talk about raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on oil imports in the consuming countries only serves to exacerbate the exporting countries' dilemma," it said.

Oil industry executives say huge investment in the oil sector is needed to boost output capacity and avert a new global price shock threatened this decade by rebounding world demand.

Opec Secretary-General Subroto has said the organisation must spend \$50 billion before 1995 to boost output capacity by the required six to seven million barrels per day (Bpd), up from 17 million Bpd now.

Oapec, which groups 10 Arab producers, said the extensive environmental campaign being waged against oil products in industrial countries posed another major problem.

Nomura to consolidate: The Nomura Research Institute said Monday it has moved to expand and consolidate its operations overseas to prepare for globalisation of its business in the 1990s. The institute, think tank of Japan's top brokerage house Nomura Securities Co., said two US subsidiaries have been merged in the initial stage while its operations in Hong Kong will soon be consolidated. (UPI)

Japan reserves decline: Reflecting massive intervention by the Bank of Japan to support the yen, Japan's foreign exchange reserve decreased sharply in March, the Finance Ministry reported Monday. The ministry said the reserves at the end of March totalled \$73.496 billion, down \$73.496 billion from the previous month. The ministry said the decrease followed a \$7.274 billion decline in February. (UPI)

Toshiba subsidiary in Belgium: Major Japanese electronics firm Toshiba Corp. said Monday it has established a subsidiary in Brussels, Belgium, to promote sales and marketing of information and communications equipment. The Tokyo-based company said the new firm, Toshiba Information Systems (Belgium) SA, NV, capitalised at 14.27 million Belgian francs (about \$410,000), will promote sales of personal computers, printing and copying machines and facsimile equipment. (UPI)

GM leases Asian technical centre: General Motors Corp. has signed an agreement to lease a facility in Tokyo for its Asian Technical Center, the US company's Tokyo office has reported. The company said the centre will promote co-operative use of component engineering knowledge for engine and vehicle management systems applications. (UPI)

Toyota to make cars in Turkey: Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp. says its car manufacturing project in Turkey has made headway as its application now is being reviewed by the Turkish government. The Nagoya-based company said the \$250 million project calls for production of 1,600cc class passenger cars jointly with Haci Omer Sabanci local AS of Istanbul and Japanese trading company Mitsu and Co. (UPI)

UT and Daimler-Benz alliance: United Technologies Corp. of the United States and West Germany's Daimler-Benz AG have agreed to strengthen their business collaboration in the aerospace arena, the companies announced recently. Under the agreement, Daimler-Benz would invest in United Technologies' Pratt and Whitney and United Technologies would invest in Daimler-Benz Motoren-und-Turbinen-Union (MTU). (UPI)

After 2 years Boesky free

NEW YORK, April 2. (AP): Ivan F. Boesky, Wall Street's most notorious felon, will be a free man this week.

The former arbitrator is due for release on Wednesday, just over two years after he entered prison for his role in the nation's biggest insider trading scandal, a source close to Boesky said yesterday.

In November 1986, Boesky paid \$100 million to the securities and exchange commission and agreed to plead guilty to one felony to settle charges related to Wall Street's biggest insider trading scandal.

He was sentenced to three years in prison but is being released a year early for good behaviour.

This week's date has limited practical meaning, though. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Boesky was already released into home custody about six weeks ago and has only been required to make weekly visits to a halfway house.

Qatar sets up metal coating unit: An agreement establishing the Qatar company for metal coating was signed here on Tuesday by Qatar's Steel Company (Qasco) and the Qatari Company for Processing Industries. The new concern, with a paid-up capital of \$4.12 million, will produce iron bars coated with anti-rust material. The plant is expected to go onstream at the end of this year. (Opecna)

Sweden-Iran ties: Sweden is keen to expand industrial and economic relations with Iran and to help the Gulf country in its reconstruction efforts, it has been reported here. The statement was made by high-ranking Swedish industry official Roine Maulin at a one-day seminar here aimed at boosting co-operation and trade ties. (Opecna)

Libya to ease ban of payments: Libya is set to ease a ban imposed on payments to West German companies. It was weeks after West German firms were asked to leave Libya's Rabta chemical plant, diplomatic sources said on Sunday. The sources in Tripoli said the companies expected payments to start coming through very shortly but they could not confirm that the Central Bank had yet released any funds. (Reuters)

Questions before the Gulf investor

This is the third part of the article. The first and second parts appeared on April 1 and 2.

Since we are exploring alternative opportunities available for the Gulf investor in the international markets, domestic investment opportunities will not be considered and the analysis is restricted to surplus cash-flow that is beyond the requirements of the investor in his domestic market. Before embarking on such an endeavour, there are a number of questions that the Gulf investor needs to address in order to identify his basic investment philosophy.

Is his aim capital gain, income or a combination of both? (If he is looking for income, how much income does he need? The answers to these questions indicate the basic orientation of

his portfolio, and the level of yield required.

How much of a risk is he prepared to take? The degree to which the money invested is "spread" capital, and the individual's own acceptance of risk, will make a difference to the choice of investment outlets.

For instance, someone who is speculatively inclined and who is not relying on the use of his capital to live on, might be interested in more volatile investments, while those who are more risk-averse, the possibility of greater returns.

Over what time frame does he intend to invest? Investments in equities (bonds and stocks), real estate or direct investment in businesses should be regarded from the outset as a medium to long term

investment.

What is the investor's base currency? Most, if not all Gulf investors consider themselves to be mainly dollar based. Kuwaiti dinars would be a partially diversified portfolio but where dollar denominated assets constitute more than 75 per cent.

The importance of choosing a base currency for the international investor need not be over emphasised. Price changes and rates of returns of various investments are normally converted into the investor's base currency to evaluate performance.

A defence approach for dollar based investors is to maintain a high percentage of their portfolio in dollars, in order not to reduce exchange rate risk. Although a major

dollar weakness appears less likely, one cannot rule out the possibility that the US currency has not yet bottomed especially vis-a-vis the DM.

DM, a plausible currency mix would be: US dollar 65 per cent, DM 20 per cent, yen 5 per cent, other European currencies 5 per cent, and high yielding currencies (e.g. sterling, Canadian dollars) 10 per cent.

Most Gulf investors would want a portfolio that is a little more adventurous than bank deposits. Other types of investments would then have to be considered, including fixed income securities, stocks and gold.

Analysing returns on key investments in the US for dollar based investors including those from the Gulf underlines the attractiveness of being long-term investors in stocks.

Israel approves \$31 billion budget, increases allocations for religious institutions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 2. (UPI): The Israeli parliament in a lengthy session lasting until early Friday approved a budget of \$31 billion for the next fiscal year, with increased allocations for religious institutions and immigrant housing.

Less than half of Israel's 120-member parliament, the Knesset, voted on the budget, approving it 40-10 with eight abstentions. Knesset members finalised the budget and argued their last-minute pleas on Thursday, the last day of the parliamentary session before recess for the Jewish holiday of Passover. Voting on the budget had been planned for earlier Thursday, but final details and the lengthy session delayed the vote until after

12:30 am Friday. A last-minute plea by Housing Minister David Levy to transfer 200 million shekels, (\$100 million) to his ministry's budget to finance 30,000 housing projects for new immigrants also was approved.

Haim Ramon, the Labour Party faction leader, demanded that the issue be referred back to the Knesset finance committee fearing the money would be spent on building in the territories, the Jerusalem Post reported. But Ramon's proposal was rejected.

Left-wing opposition parties, backed by Labour, succeeded in defeating a bid by the right-wing Likud Party and religious factions to increase elec-

allocations to parties by 65 per cent, army radio reported.

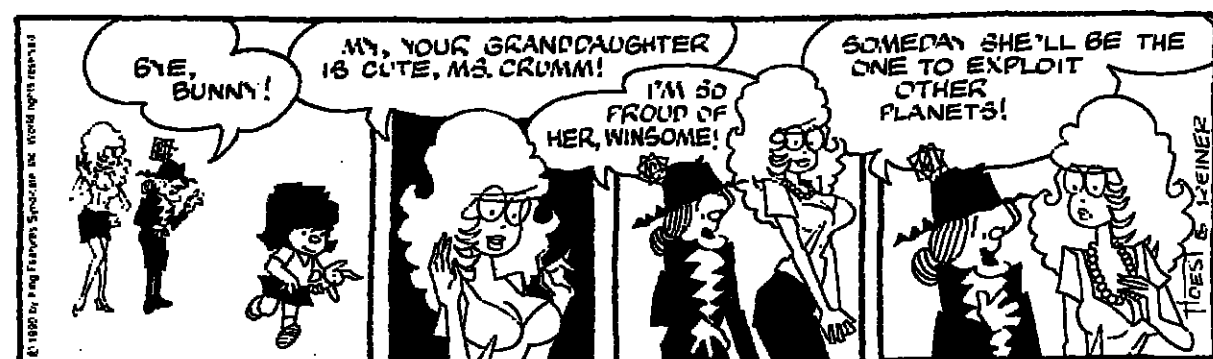
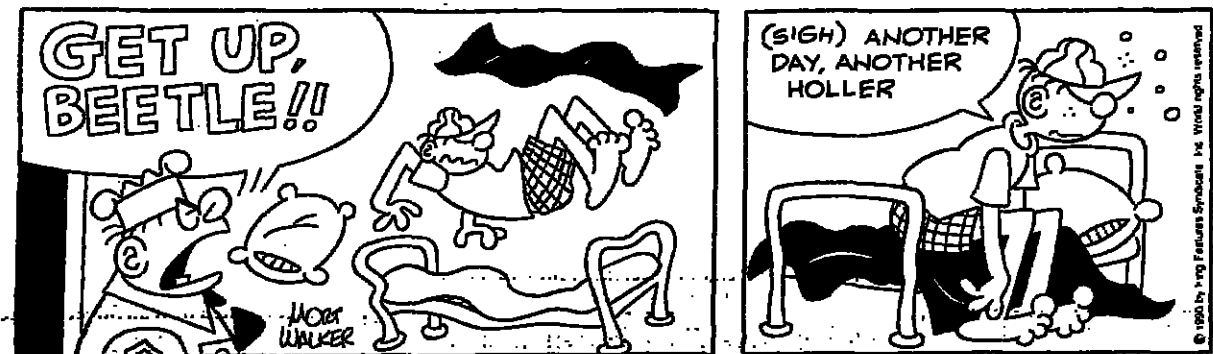
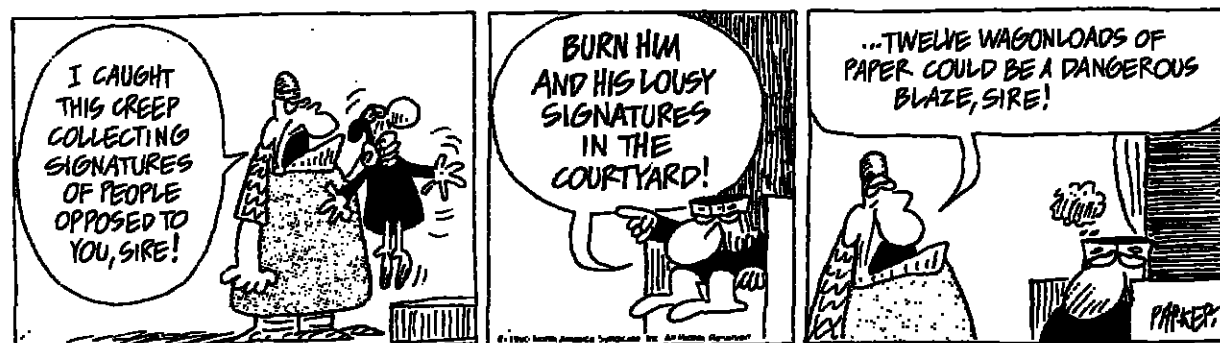
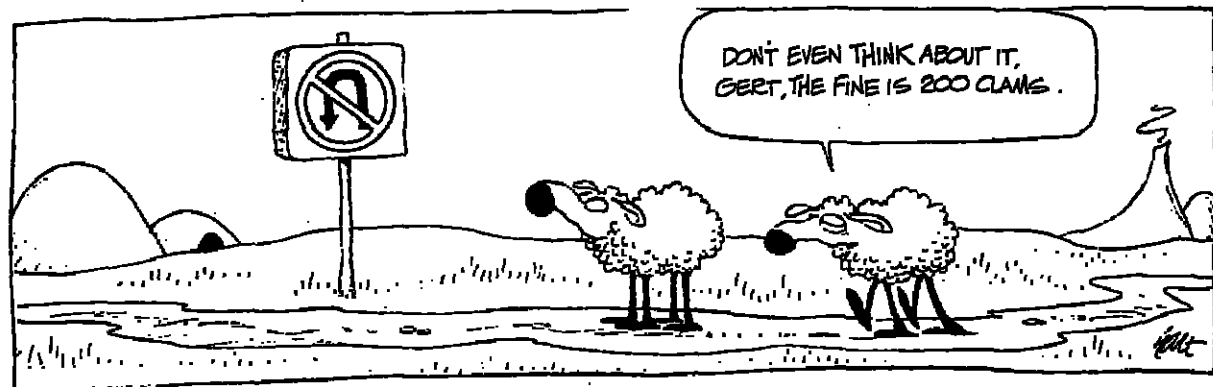
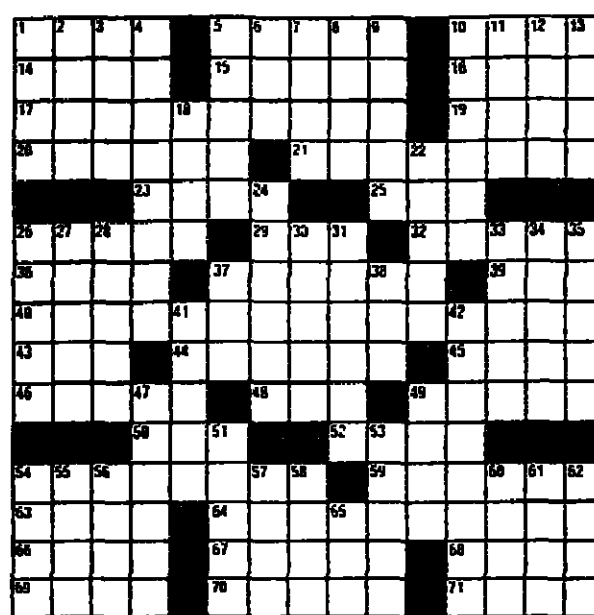
In an attempt to find favour in the eyes of the religious parties and individual Knesset members in the wake of the present government crisis, both Labour and Likud supported granting more than 220 million shekels (\$110 million) to various institutions linked to those whose backing Israel's two major parties sought.

The approved allocations were three times the original requests made before the government crisis and some critics said the extra money was political bribery.

The Labour Party, headed by Shimon Peres, orchestrated a successful vote of no-confidence against Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Party March 15, toppling the government two days after Shamir fired Peres from the ruling Likud-Labour coalition.

The coalition collapsed over disagreement on whether to accept a US proposal on how to begin Israeli-Palestinian talks. Peres has received a presidential mandate to form Israel's next government, but Shamir is attempting to block the Labour leader's efforts and show he has more support to lead Israel.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Riga native
 - 5 Find the sum
 - 10 Map
 - 14 Long for
 - 15 Extinguish
 - 16 Bug
 - 17 Describing diner fare
 - 19 King of comedy
 - 20 Dread
 - 21 Lamb, for instance
 - 23 Vexes
 - 25 Palindromic animal
 - 26 High
 - 29 Fala, to FDR
 - 32 Debate
 - 36 Delhi garb
 - 37 Prom attendee
 - 39 Barbecue buttinsky
 - 40 Diner fare
 - 43 Shout-speaker
 - 44 Last
 - 45 At an end, in Berlin
 - 46 Hint
 - 48 Red or Coral
 - 49 Cooking utensil
 - 50 Gibbon
 - 52 "Man and Superman" playwright
 - 54 Volunteer
 - 59 Reddish-yellow
 - 63 Hoodlum
 - 64 Diner fare
 - 66 Will's wife
 - 67 La Douce et al.
 - 68 Leave out
 - 69 Roe or doe
 - 70 Irish county
 - 71 Thank-you
- DOWN**
- 1 Tie down
 - 2 Mimic
 - 3 Mythical hammer-thrower
 - 4 Great!
 - 5 Love
 - 6 Beetle
 - 7 Cool cat
 - 8 Applications
 - 9 As such
 - 10 Lord's
 - 11 Caron role
 - 12 Toot bad!
 - 13 Pavilion
 - 18 Legal matter
 - 22 Oscar, for one
 - 24 Pays out
 - 26 Neckpiece
 - 27 Actress
 - 28 Christine
 - 29 Mythical hunter
 - 30 Follow
 - 31 Royal headwear
 - 33 With joy
 - 34 Aunt's husband
 - 35 Heavens
 - 37 Capitol Hill VIP
 - 38 "A Chorus Line" song
 - 41 Reizins
 - 42 "The —": 1967 J. Wayne flick
 - 47 Type of drive
 - 49 "M.A.S.H." cast member
 - 51 Set of values
 - 53 Word with mother or wife
 - 54 Mild oath
 - 55 Zip
 - 56 Solitary
 - 57 Actor James — Jones
 - 58 Poet Lazarus
 - 60 Verne captain
 - 61 Courage
 - 62 Villa d—
 - 65 Saloon

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BARB PEEPS UTES
OBIE ARGOT NUDE
PAPER TIGER BRIG
STYLET STEPI INTO
ILES SAINT
UPIN ARMS MEDUSA
MONEY EASED RAM
BLAS PLIER ETNA
BLAP BELLE GALES
ARISEN SPARGERS
GENTS SEAL
FUSTIANA SIESTA
IDED GOWHOLEHOG
JAYS ORLOP YOIRE
ISIE WESTS EWES

GOREN BRIDGE**BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF**
THE OBLIGATORY FALSECARD

North-South vulnerable. North located, North opted for the suit contract because of his ruffing value in clubs.

NORTH
♦ 7 6 4 2
♥ K Q 9 8
♦ K 8 6
♣ 3 2

WEST
♦ K 9 5
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 7 5 4
♣ K 9 7 6

EAST
♦ Q J 3
♥ J 7 3 2
♦ J 2
♣ J 10 8 5

SOUTH
♦ A 10 8
♥ A 10 5 4
♦ A Q 3
♣ A Q 4

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

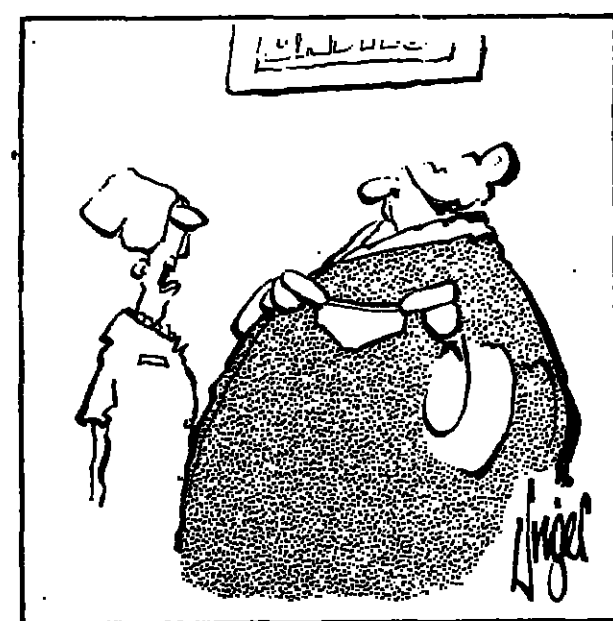
Opening lead: Ten of ♠. Among our least favorite partners are habitual falsecarders. On defense, every hand becomes an adventure because we cannot trust any card partner plays. However, there are some situations where a defensive falsecard cannot hurt; indeed, it might even be mandatory to protect a holding. This example is from last year's World Team Championship. With two four-card majors, North routinely checked for a 4-4 fit over partner's two-no-trump opening bid. When the heart fit was

located, North opted for the suit contract because of his ruffing value in clubs.

West's initial lead of the ten of ♠ was a mistake. In the closed hand and declarer led a trump to the queen. West produced the six and, had East routinely followed with the deuce, declarer would probably have continued with the king of hearts since, if both cards were honest, West's six was more likely to be a singleton. However, East made the obligatory falsecard of the seven!

Declarer knew one of his opponents was trying to pull a fast one, but he had no idea which. In any event, he elected to continue with a heart to the ace and as a result lost a trump trick in addition to two spades and a club.

Despite East's excellent defense, declarer should not have committed himself in trumps until he knew the fate of the club finesse. If it fails, he needs to ruff a club on the board and will not be able to pick up the trumps if West started with four unless declarer takes a deep position. Therefore, he should have led a club to the queen at trick three. When West wins the king, declarer takes any return, ruffs a club in dummy and the trump position clarifies itself when the king of trumps is cashed.

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 19
Do not leave your partner in the dark about your intentions. Try not to make mistakes rather than to correct them later. You would do well to pay a compliment where one is deserved. Be firm.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You will have plenty to do and must do your best to avoid distractions. You should not allow your preconceptions to distort your judgment. Do not confuse optimism with smugness. Be moderate.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Not everything is as you expected it to be, but some things will turn out rather better. If you ask for more than you deserve you will not get it. Although you will have some luck you cannot rely upon it, better to use your judgment. Be reliable.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You will find the right answer to problem that has been dogging you. Your lucky numbers are 9 and 36. You should pay a little more attention to a personal matter, but do not allow it to preponderate. Be benevolent.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You should not expect others to behave towards you differently from the way you have behaved towards them. An offer or proposal should be considered more carefully and dispassionately. Better rely more on yourself than on others. Be moderate.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22
You will be better to able to deal with an unusual circumstance. There will be a tendency to tire rather easily and you should seek not to exert yourself unnecessarily. Take the best possible care of your health and be on the lookout for allergies. Be tolerant.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You are far too reliable to take things for granted — refrain. You are more likely to make mistakes so be on the lookout for them. Do not allow yourself to be intimidated by what remains to be done, just press ahead. Be magnanimous.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
Our health could be some cause for concern, so make sure you do not neglect it. Do not be too quick to place your trust in someone you do not know very well. Something that looked at first like a bargain will turn out not to be. Be cordial.



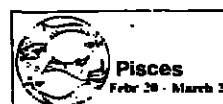
Gemini
May 21 - June 20
Only if you act swiftly will you be able to avoid confusion. A certain initial shyness can be overcome, but you will have to make a special effort. Do not believe all you hear but do not be too critical either. Be tactful.



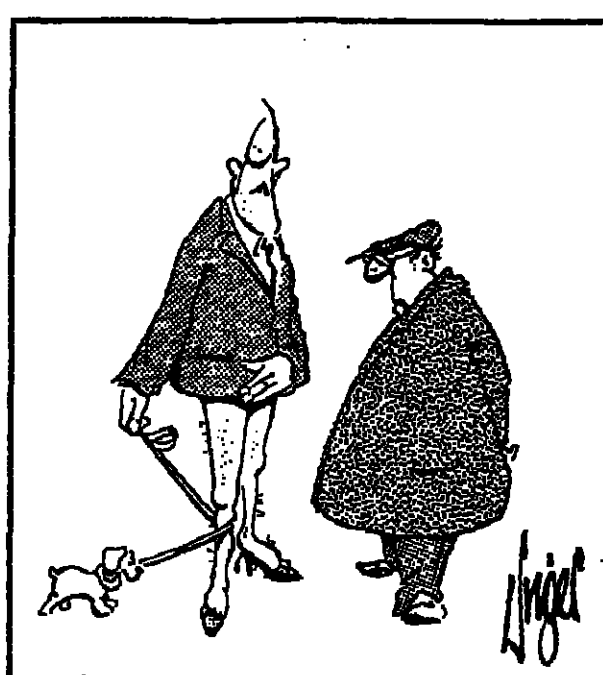
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You will tend to spend more than you can readily afford — desist. You should not turn your back on good advice. Nor should you be offended if someone close to you tells you something about yourself that you know to be true. Be polite.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will have something to be pleased about. This is not the time to do anything very much out of the ordinary or to take any undue risks. Something you had been hoping for will not take place. Be sensible.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You should avoid exposing yourself to noise, neither should you make too much noise yourself. Avoid taking on new commitments unless you are sure you can meet them. If you try to get something for nothing you will fail. Be trustworthy.



"He won't go out with anyone except my wife."



"He uses that one when he can't find his false teeth."

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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Rangers brush aside Celtic

Reid winner stops Villa



An action-shot from the Villa-City match. (Reuter wirephoto)

LONDON, April 2. (Reuter): Former England midfielder Peter Reid stopped Aston Villa going back to the top of the English soccer First Division with a late winner that gave Manchester City their first away success of the season yesterday.

City won 2-1 to ease slightly their relegation worries and leave Villa in second place behind Liverpool, who took the lead on goal difference after beating Southampton 3-2 on Saturday and have two games in hand.

Player-coach Reid drove home the decisive goal, his first for the club, in the 80th minute after David White's shot had rebounded off a post.

Villa had gone ahead in the 12th minute when midfielder Gordon Cowans scored from 15 metres after good work by England international David Platt on the right.

City equalised in the 26th minute. Mark Ward dispossessing

Ian Ormondroyd before scoring from 20 metres to register his first goal for the club.

City are now 17th in the 20-team division from which the bottom three are relegated.

Scotland striker Ally McCoist lifted Rangers within touching distance of their second successive Premier Division title, and at the same time earned a place in the record books.

McCoist's 79th minute penalty in the 3-0 home win over their great Glasgow City rivals Celtic made him the club's leading scorer since World War Two with 132 goals, one more than Derek Johnstone.

Mark Walters had earlier opened the scoring from the penalty spot, while former Celtic striker Mo Johnston fired the second goal.

Standings

English and Scottish League soccer tables after yesterday's matches.

(tabulated under - played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points)

English Division One

Liverpool	30	17	8	5	56	30	59
Aston Villa	32	18	5	9	46	30	53
Arsenal	31	16	5	10	46	30	53
Tottenham	32	14	8	12	41	45	48
Everton	31	14	6	11	44	37	48
Chelsea	32	12	8	12	43	48	48
Nottingham Forest	31	12	8	11	42	36	44
Norwich	32	11	11	10	34	35	44
Coventry	32	13	5	14	34	46	44
Wimbledon	30	10	13	7	39	35	43
Southampton	31	11	10	10	60	55	43
QPR	30	11	10	9	36	52	43
Derby	31	11	7	13	37	51	40
Sheffield Wed	31	10	10	10	35	45	40
Crystal P	31	11	7	13	36	57	40
M United	32	10	8	14	40	38	38
Manchester C	31	8	10	13	33	46	34
Luton	32	7	12	13	35	49	33
Charlton	32	7	9	16	27	43	30
Millwall	32	5	10	17	37	55	25

Scottish Premier Division

Rangers	31	17	9	5	42	17	43
Aberdeen	31	14	9	8	30	31	37
Hearts	31	14	9	8	30	37	37
Celtic	31	10	12	9	24	28	32
Dundee U	31	10	11	10	34	36	31
Hibernian	31	11	8	12	31	37	30
Motherwell	31	9	11	11	37	40	29
Dundee	31	9	11	11	37	40	29
St Mirren	31	8	14	12	23	25	25
Dundee	31	5	11	15	27	59	21

Stasi took \$1.8m transfer fee

BONN, April 2. (Reuter): The East German secret police pocketed the three million marks (\$1.8 million) West German soccer team Bayer Leverkusen paid for East German international Andreas Thom, a West German newspaper said yesterday.

Thom, 24-year-old midfielder, moved from Dynamo Berlin to Leverkusen in December in the first East-West German soccer transfer.

Bild Am Sonntag said Dynamo Berlin's communist club president asked for the money to be sent straight to a hard-currency bank account which it belonged to the hated Stasi secret police.

The club, since renamed FC Berlin, was funded by the Stasi, whose disgraced chief Erich Mielke was a big fan, until the secret police were disbanded after last year's revolution. Now no one at the club trace the money, Bild Am Sonntag said.

The mass circulation paper quoted club chairman Jurgen Boll as saying they could not find out who controlled the account or whether the money was still in it.

Team officials were not available yesterday to comment on the report.



Ajax captain Jan Wouters goes flying after being tripped by Feyenoord's Paul Norten. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ajax, PSV win

AMSTERDAM, April 2. (Reuter): A second-half strike by substitute Dennis Bergkamp gave Ajax Amsterdam a 1-0 away win over arch rivals Feyenoord Rotterdam that maintained their challenge to Dutch soccer leaders PSV Eindhoven yesterday.

PSV won 2-0 at Vitesse to stay top, two points clear of second-placed Ajax, who have a match in hand.

Ajax and Feyenoord were meeting for the 70th time in Dutch League history, but the clash failed to live up to expectations, and was settled two minutes after halftime.

Bergkamp, a second half replacement for midfielder Wim Jonk, saw his hard shot parried by Feyenoord goalkeeper Joop Hiele but he pounced on the rebound and easily lobbed it home.

Feyenoord's Gerrit Plomp and new Czechoslovak recruit Stanislav Griga had a number of scoring chances after Bergkamp's goal, but Ajax keeper Stanley Menzo was unyielding.

In Arnhem, PSV Eindhoven comfortably beat fourth-placed Vitesse with a goal in each half.

Juul Ellerman put the leaders ahead in the 33rd minute from a pass by Wim Kieft, while Kieft himself headed the second goal.

from a pass by libero Michel Beerebaek.

Algerian striker Rabah Madjer fired a hat-trick to inspire League leaders Porto to a 3-1 home victory over lowly Feirense in the Portuguese Soccer First Division yesterday.

Sweden's Mats Magnusson, the League's top marksman, netted twice to give Benfica a 2-0 home win over Chaves on Saturday, boosting their confidence ahead of next Wednesday's European Cup semifinal first leg in Marseille.

Madjer headed the first two goals from corners in the sixth and 49th minutes and completed his hat-trick in the 73rd. Miguel scored Feirense's lone goal on the hour from a free-kick.

Rayo Vallecano, bottom of the Spanish soccer First Division, had two players sent off in a 2-0 defeat by city rivals Atletico Madrid yesterday.

Rayo were left with nine men for the last 16 minutes of the match following the expulsion of striker Pepe Mejias after Atletico's second goal in the 70th minute and defender Oscar Vivanco four minutes later.

Mejias was sent off after earning two yellow cards for dissent when he protested that each goal by Brazilian striker Baltazar de Moraes.

Nicklaus wins first senior tourney

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., April 2. (Reuter): Jack Nicklaus became the fourth player in the Senior PGA Tour's 11-year history to win in his first appearance on the circuit, claiming the title at the \$800,000 event yesterday.

Nicklaus fired a steady final-round 70 at the 6,837-yard, par-72 golf for a 54-hole total of 10-under-par 206 and a four-stroke victory over Gary Player of South Africa.

Nicklaus joined Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and George Archer as winners in their Senior Tour debuts. Nicklaus collected \$120,000 for the victory.

"I'm obviously delighted and I obviously played well," Nicklaus said. "I don't have to worry about winning my first Senior Tour tournament. I think it's nice to get the monkey off my back. Of course, I put the monkey there."

Betsy King shot a three-under-par final round 75 to win the Dinah Shore women's golf tournament by three strokes over Shirley Furlong and Kathy Postlewait yesterday in Racine, California.

King, who finished with a five-under-par 283, had entered the 1st round at eight-under-par with a five-stroke lead over Postlewait and Colleen Walker.

Cindy Rarick finished alone at 286 and Walker another stroke back at 287.

"I was really disappointed with my back nine," said King, who had bogies on the 13th, 15th and 16th holes. "I had hoped to get into a position to feel comfortable on the back stretch and really enjoy the win. Instead, I got quite concerned. That back nine was the longest two hours of my life."

Australian Brett Ogle collected his first PGA European Golf Tour title yesterday in the AGF Open and looked forward to moving into a new house on the strength of his winnings.

Three birdies in the last five holes earned Ogle the \$33,000 (\$54,000) first prize in the £200,000 (\$330,000) tournament at La Grande Motte, Montpellier, France.

The 25-year-old Queensland Open champion from Sydney fired a final-round 70 for a 10-below-par 278 to finish three strokes clear of British pair Bill Longmuir, who shot 69, and Paul Curry, round in 71.

"I liked the course the moment I saw it and my first prize will do nicely as deposit on four-bedroomed house my wife Maggie, who is expecting our first baby in September, has set her heart on," Ogle said.

And in Woodlands, Tex., Tony Sills sank an 18-inch putt on the playoff hole to defeat Gil Morgan, and win the million dollar Woodlands Open golf tournament yesterday.

Sills' par putt was worth \$180,000 and marked the first time the 34-year-old professional had won a Tour event since joining the circuit in 1982. Morgan, who missed a five and a half foot par putt, won \$108,000.

Sills fired a final round 65 for a three-round total 204. The tournament was shortened to 54 holes due to rain Thursday and Friday.

Best slams timely 71 for England

Three-day match ends in draw

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 2. (Reuter): West Indies middle order batsman Carlisle Best cemented his place in the Test side with a buccaneering 71 for Barbados against England petered out into a tame draw on the final day yesterday.

Best helped Barbados to a second innings score of 225 for five declared, leaving England with only 36 overs plus the mandatory 20 to reach a theoretical target of 435.

The touring team were 126 for one when the game was called off as a draw after 42 overs.

In batting on for so long from the overnight 67 for one, Barbados captain Desmond Haynes clearly wanted to give the Test players in the side as much practice as possible.

Malcolm Marshall was accordingly promoted to number four after Gordon Greenidge had been second out after an hour's play, his second-wicket stand with Best worth 90 in 30 overs.

Having made 51 from 118 balls, Greenidge made room to cut left-arm spinner Keith Medlicott but got an edge and was brilliantly caught at slip by Alec Stewart. He hit six fours.

three of which came in one Medlicott over.

Best, out for 16 and nought in the third Test in port of Spain last week, went some way towards keeping his Test spot with 95 in the first innings on Friday.

He resumed the final day on 12 and started by taking 14 from the opening over, bowled by Phillip DeFreitas, including a pulled six.

In all, best hit eight fours as well as a second six, a straight hit off Medlicott which landed on the pavilion roof.

Best was out just before lunch when he was beaten by a break-back from pace bowler Chris Lewis and adjudged lbw after 188 minutes at the crease.

Lewis struck again immediately after the interval when he had Marshall superbly caught off an inside edge by the stand-in keeper David Bairstow. Marshall, dropped on nought by DeFreitas off Medlicott, made 31.

Thelston Payne hit Medlicott for three successive fours but in the same over was lbw for 13 offering no stroke. This was England's last success before the declaration.

The touring team's scope for batting practice was limited but



Gordon Greenidge

David Capel at least had the satisfaction of scoring an unbeaten 51, although he had only five overs of Marshall to contend with.

After a five-over opening spell, Marshall was rested and the remainder of the bowling was hardly testing, with Haynes bringing himself and best on for nine innocuous overs.

Capel, who reached his 50 from 134 balls and hit three fours, put on 49 for the first wicket with Stewart (26), who trod on his off stump going back to Victor Walcott.

Robert Bailey should have been caught at slip off Henderson's springer on only 10 but

stayed for 29 overs, scoring 28, which included two sixes over long-on in the same Springer over.

Scoreboard

Barbados first innings 357 (G Greenidge 183, C Best 95, E Haynes 116, T Payne 77, K Medlicott 14, 115)

ENGLAND first innings 158 (N Hussain 70, H Springer 100, T V Walcott 116, 100, 115)

BARBADOS second innings (over-night 67 for one)

G Greenidge c Stewart b Medlicott 51
D Haynes lbw b DeFreitas 13
C Best b Lewis 71
M Marshall c sub (Bairstow) b Lewis 31
R Holder not out 26
T Payne lbw b Medlicott 13
R Hoyte not out 4
Extras (b-1lb-6 w-2 nb-9) 16
Fall of wickets 1-24-114 3-117 4-186 5-200

Bowling DeFreitas 13-2-38-1, Capel 13-1-50-0, Lewis 13-3-30-2, Medlicott 33-5-100-2

ENGLAND second innings

A Stewart hit wkt b Walcott 27
D Capel not out 51
R Bailey not out 27
Extras (b-8 lb-6 w-2 nb-5) 21
Total (one wicket) 126
Fall of wicket 1-49

Bowling Walcott 11-1-30-1, Marshall 5-0-16-0, Johnson 5-2-15-0, Springer 12-3-30-0, Best 6-0-15-0, Haynes 3-1-6-0

England to play 5 cricket Tests

MELBOURNE, Australia, April 2. (Reuter): England will play five Tests on its four-month tour of Australia in 1990/91, the Australian Cricket Board said today.

England, who arrive on October 19 and leave after the fifth Test ends on February 6, will also play a match against an Australian XI in Hobart in November, the week before the first Test in Brisbane.

England and Australia will be joined by New Zealand in the World Series Cup one-day competition which will be largely completed before the Christmas break. Four of the Tests will take place after Christmas.

Gower steps down, Smith arrives

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 2. (Reuter): David Gower ended a brief spell back in England colours yesterday as opener David Smith arrived to become the official reinforcement for the injury-hit touring cricket team.

Tour manager Peter Lush said after the drawn three-day game against Barbados, in which Gower scored four in his only innings, that the former England captain would not be called on again, "except in the case of emergency."

Gower agreed to join the party after skipper Graham Gooch had his left hand broken in two places during the third Test against the West Indies in Port of Spain last week.



David Gower

He will stay on in Barbados with his new county Hampshire, who are here on a pre-season tour.

Left-hander Smith had a net practice with some of the English players soon after his arrival and was to play for Yorkshire, also touring here, in a club match today.

Smith made his only two Test appearances against West Indies in the Caribbean four years ago, and his qualities as a redoubtable player of fast bowling almost certainly influenced the decision to put him on stand-by for the tour in January.

Apart from Gooch, England's casualty list includes batsmen Nasser Hussain, Alec Stewart and Rob Bailey, all nursing slight injuries.

Siddique beat Capri for Pakistan Trophy

SIDDIQUE Cricket Club beat Capri by 42 runs in the final of the Pakistan Trophy recently at the KCL Ground.

Siddique's captain Arif Javid won the toss and opted to bat. Shahid and Amjad opened the innings for Siddique to the bowling of Sarfraz. Shahid did not

last long and was back in the pavilion after scoring only 12 with the total score 28.

Khalid Pervaz joined Amjad and both of them took the score to 71 before Amjad was caught by Bittu at silly-point for 37. He hit four fours. Siddique lost another wicket on the very

next ball when Tariq Khan was lbw on the very first ball he faced.

Siddique lost two more quick wickets and were soon in trouble after losing their top five batsmen with only 85 runs on the board. Captain Arif and Tariq Mahmood repaired the damage to some extent by

putting on 50 runs for the sixth wicket before the latter was out for 25.

Malik came in and scored 10 quick runs and Arif was finally out for 61 but Zulqarnain came and changed the whole complexion of the game. He hammered all the bowlers and hit two sixes and five fours as he slammed an unbeaten 64. Asif chipped in with a useful 15 as Siddique scored 265 for the loss of eight wickets in their 40 allotted overs.

For Capri, Lewis and Imran took two wickets each while Sarfraz, Nareh, Nasir and Bittu got one each.

Capri tried to keep up with the run-rate but ultimately found the going tough for them and were all out for 223. Rajo was the top scorer with 71 while Tauseef hit 40.

Malik was the main wicket-taker with three wickets while Arif and Khalid took two wickets each.

Zulqarnain was named Man of the Match.



The victorious Siddique squad



Prize distribution

The Kuwait Green cricket team (above) with other officials at a prize distribution ceremony at the Kuwait Continental Hotel.

The Green team beat Kuwait Red on the Kuwait National Day by 23 runs to clinch the trophy. The prizes were presented to both the teams by Ashraf Khan, the vice-chairman of Kfco.

The Man of the Match award went to Amin, Naser was named Best Batsman, Raheq Butt Best Bowler and Aqueel Ashraf Best Fielder.

Right: Kuwait Green captain Ejaz Ahmed (centre) collecting the winners' trophy from Ashraf Khan.



SPORTS

Seles fights back to beat Maleeva for Texas tournament title

But Seles broke Maleeva in a low game with a backhand drive to capture title

W. Germans left in suspense

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